

Joyful Life Bible Studies

JAMES 1-5

Review

Lesson 21

As we studied the book of James, we discovered that the problems we encounter in the 20th century are no different from those the early Christians struggled with. The Jewish believers were experiencing trials and temptations just as we do. James, in this practical letter, exhorted the believers to a mature Christian faith, explaining what that faith should look like and act like. As we have been encouraged to press on and examine ourselves, we have discovered weaknesses in our own walks. These discoveries should lead to a conviction that draws us close to our Lord, as we depend on Him for the strength to change. They should lead us to an acknowledgment of our sin, a mourning over that sin, and to a repentance that is evidenced by change. This recognition should also provoke us to praise, thanking the Lord for His wonderful grace toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us and continues to intercede on our behalf.

As you begin this review lesson, ponder over all you learned from the study this year. Express to the Lord your desire to make all of the exhortations in James a reality in your life, and praise Him for His desire and His power to equip you to walk maturely. Write your prayer here.

FIRST DAY: Read James 1

1. James begins this epistle introducing himself as *a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ*. It is in this attitude that James addresses the recipients of his letter. It is with this humility that James exhorts his readers to be doers of the Word, to walk their talk. Why do you think it was important for James to approach the people as a servant rather than as an elder of the church in Jerusalem or the brother of Jesus?
2. Briefly state what you learned about trials from James 1:2-4.
 - a. How do *trials work patience*?
 - (1.) According to Romans 5:3-5 what else does *tribulation worketh*?
 - (a.) Can you say, "Amen" to these verses? Share a time when you experienced these fruits in a *tribulation* and how they strengthened your faith.
 - b. Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us that all of God's plans for us are good. Why do you think God, Who has only good plans for us, would allow and even appoint trials for our lives?

c. Why should we *let patience have her perfect work*? James 1:4

(1.) Refer to Romans 8:29. What is God's goal for Christians?

(a.) How does knowing this help you to *let patience have her perfect work* when you are experiencing *tribulation*?

3. James 1:5-8 deals with the Source and availability of *wisdom*. *Wisdom* is something we all *lack* and we all need. What are the requirements of *getting wisdom*? James 1:5,6

a. What is God's response?

b. How do these verses influence the way you approach a trial?

c. *A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.* verse 8 Describe a double minded attitude.

(1.) Why would being *double minded* or *not asking in faith* affect our reception of God's *wisdom*?

4. How does James 1:12 minister to you when you are faced with a trial?

5. The *temptations* addressed in James 1:2 are trials or testings with a beneficial purpose and effect; *trials divinely permitted or sent*. The *temptation* dealt with beginning with verse 13 can be described as a solicitation to evil. What does James 1:13-15(16-18) tell us about this kind of *temptation*?

a. Often we blame God for this kind of *temptation*. How do we know that this kind of accusation is in error?

b. Why is it important to know that this kind of *temptation* is not from God?

c. The *temptation* itself is not sin, but often leads to sin. When does it become sin?

6. James 1:22 is considered to be the heart of the book of James. Contrast the *doer of the word* and the *hearer only* from James 1:22-25.

SECOND DAY: Read James 2

1. The way we treat others indicates what we really believe about God. Why is showing favoritism or being a *respector of persons* incompatible with the character of Jesus Christ?

- a. What do you do to remind yourself to love and treat all people equally?
2. *Faith* is not only believing in spite of evidence, but it is also obeying in spite of consequence. *Faith* is the confidence that God's Word is true, and the conviction that acting on that Word will please the Lord. James 2:14-26 stresses the vanity of *faith without works*. James commands that we be a *doer of the Word*. James 1:22 How does this key verse relate to this portion of scripture?
 3. Since salvation comes by *faith* (Ephesians 2:8), why are *works* so important?
 - a. How would you explain the difference between intellectual *faith* (belief) and saving *faith* (belief) to someone who believes that a mental assent is enough?
 - b. What changes have you noticed in your life that are evidence that your *faith* is genuine?

*Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering;
 (for He is faithful that promised;)
 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.*

- Hebrews 10:23,24

THIRD DAY: Read James 3

1. As Christians, sometimes we think that as long as we do not commit the more blatant type of sins, we are OK. Yet, God hates all sin, regardless of what kind it is. What have you learned about the sinful, destructive power of the tongue?
 - a. How does the way you speak affect your relationship with others?
2. What can you discover about people by the way they talk?
 - a. What areas of your speech do you need to work on?
3. When you realize your speech is not pleasing to the Lord, what adjustments do you need to make?
 - a. What changes have you noticed in your speech as you contemplated and applied the study of the *tongue* this year?

4. Contrast *wisdom not from above* with *wisdom from above*. verses 13-18

- a. What is the end result of *wisdom not from above*?
- b. What is the goal or end result of *wisdom from above*?
- c. When relating to others, how would determining your objective determine your behavior?
- d. What relationship do you think these verses regarding *wisdom* have with those dealing with the *tongue*?

FOURTH DAY: Read James 4

1. Continuing the warning in chapter three that *wisdom not from above* results in *envying, strife, confusion and every evil work*, James, now in chapter 4 addresses the conflicts which were causing *wars and fightings*. What was the source of these *fightings*?
2. Why were they not getting what they wanted? James 4:2,3
 - a. Think about an unmet desire in your life. How would placing yourself under the examination of verses 2,3 help you to evaluate why you are not getting what you want?
 - (1.) What else should we take under consideration when we feel God is not answering our prayers? Use scripture to support your answer.
 - (2.) What helps you when you are in a place of discouragement due to unmet desires?
3. Often we compromise to get our *lusts* (desires) met by becoming *friends of the world*. How might this happen?
 - a. Why is *friendship of the world* enmity with *God*?

Personal: Take a moment to examine your life and the choices you are making. Is there anything in your life that would cause you to be viewed as *adulterous* as far as the compromises you might be making? If there is, what changes in your life would be necessary for you to renew your *friendship with God*?

4. ...*God gives strength to the humble, but sets Himself against the proud and haughty*. James 4:6bTLB
Why does God resist the proud?

- a. How would you describe God's viewpoint on pride?
 - b. What does humility act like in the face of adversity?
5. What cures for worldliness does James give in James 4:7-10?
- a. What are the promised results of our obedience to these verses?
- (1.) Knowing this, why do you think we hesitate to *draw nigh to God and humble ourselves*?
6. Review James 4:11,12. He again addresses the misuse of the tongue. How is *speaking evil* of someone a form of *judging the law*?
- a. Who is the *only Lawgiver*?
- (1.) What does this say to you when you consider the times you have *spoken evil* of someone?
- b. How has understanding the gravity of *speaking evil* of others prevented you from doing so?
7. James 4:13-15 addresses the attitude we should have regarding the will of God. What is the proper outlook for a Christian concerning plans for the future?
8. *Remember, too, that knowing what is right to do and then not doing it is sin.* James 4:17 TLB Give a practical example of this.

FIFTH DAY: Read James 5

- 1. Not riches themselves, but *the love of money is the root of all evil.* I Timothy 6:10 Review James 5:1-6. What *evils* were being committed through the improper use and gain of *riches*?
- a. What do we need to guard against concerning earthly *treasures*?
2. Why are we encouraged to *be patient*? James 5:7,8
- a. How is knowing Jesus is coming soon an inducement to *patience*?

3. Explain why knowing *the Judge standeth before the door* is a deterrent to *grudging* (murmuring) against others. verse 9
 - a. What are we saying when we *grudge* against another?
4. Rather than *swear by heaven, earth or any other oath*, what should we do? James 5:12
 - a. Why is “keeping our word” so important?
5. According to James 5:13,14 what should our response be to the trials or joys in our life?
6. What have you learned about *prayer* from James 5:13-18?
7. What obligation do we have toward other Christians? James 5:19,20
 - a. What are the steps we should take when we know a fellow Christian has *erred from the truth*?

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. Circle three of the following topics and share how your life has been affected this year through the study of James. (Use a separate sheet of paper if needed.)

trials, temptation to sin, being a doer of the Word, respecting of persons, the tongue, wisdom, prayer, humility and pride, planning for tomorrow, misuse of riches, patiently enduring (for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh)
2. What is the most significant thing that you have learned from studying the book of James?
 - a. Describe how your life has been changed because of this study.

Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

-James 5:8

*And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me,
to give every man according as his work shall be.*

Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

-Revelation 22:12,20b