

Joyful Life Bible Studies

JAMES 1:5-11

Lesson 4

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review James 1:1-4. In what way do these verses influence your:

- behavior as a servant of the Lord?
- reaction to trials?

- (1.) Remember it is not joy *for* the trial but joy *in* the trial. Define the ultimate goal of these trials by supplying the missing word in this sentence: The purpose of trials is a part of the process of producing spiritual_____.

Personal: How are your trials maturing you?

2. Note and mark the paragraph divisions in James 1:5-11 as follows. Viewing these verses in the context of James 1:2-4, write the key word of each paragraph by filling in the blanks.

- James 1:5-8 W _____
- James 1:9-11 R _____

3. What do you feel is your greatest need in doing your homework? Write this as a prayer here. Include in your prayer any other areas of need such as comprehension or retention. Thank the Lord for hearing and answering you.

*And we are sure of this,
that He will listen to us whenever we ask Him
for anything in line with His will.
And since we know He is listening,
we can be sure that He will answer us.*

I John 5:14,15 rcv

SECOND DAY: Read James 1:5

1. Write James 1:5 phrase by phrase. Selah (Pause and meditate on this verse)

- a. At first glance it appears that James 1:5 has no connection to verses 2-4. The word that links these paragraphs together is *wanting* (James 1:4c) which is translated in other versions *lacking*. James knows that all the recipients of his letter will not have reached the level of spiritual maturity that these tests are meant to produce. He seems to sense that in the awful confusion and tangle of tests and trials, it is not easy to see God's purpose in them. Without this James 1:3,4 perspective it could be almost impossible to *count them all joy*. Record his counsel to anyone who lacks this perspective on their various trials. (James 1:5a)

2. Another way of looking at this *wisdom* in James 1:5a is from J.B. Phillips' translation: *And if, in the process, any of you does not know how to meet any particular problem he has only to ask God*. Either or both viewpoints of James 1:5a are valid. The important point in this verse is what to do about our *lack of (godly) wisdom*. Print the two words from James 1:5a that tell us what we are to do when we *lack wisdom*.

- a. *Wisdom* has been defined as *knowledge applied or insight*. We discover two sources of *wisdom* in James 3:(14)15(16)17(18). What are they?

(1.) How does this prompt you to cooperate with James' instruction in James 1:5a?

(a.) Where should we not go for *wisdom*? Psalm 1:1? Why not? I Cor. 3:19a

3. Reflect on the word *ask* in James 1:5a. How do the following verses amplify this word:

- a. Luke 11:9,10
- b. John 15:7
- c. I John 5:14
- d. Philippians 4:6

4. How will praying (asking) for *wisdom* give you God's perspective on *trials* so you can *count it all joy*?

*Deeper, deeper in the love of Jesus
Daily let me go,
Higher, higher in the school of wisdom,
More of grace to know.*

-pj

THIRD DAY: Read James 1:5-7

1. What will be the result of *asking* God for *wisdom*? Use other versions for your answer if you desire.

a. Verse 5b

(1.) What does *liberally* indicate to you?

b. Verse 5b

(1.) Define *upbraideth*.

c. Verse 5c

Selah!

Optional: Observe *wisdom* from Proverbs 4:5-9. Choose a few choice phrases concerning *wisdom* from these verses to contemplate. Write them here.

2. Print the promise of James 1:5 on a card. Read it often. Memorize it if possible.

3. When we *ask* God for wisdom we *must believe and not doubt* (James 1:6a NIV). Confirm this statement by writing James 1:6a KJV.

a. Define *faith* as used in James 1:6a.

b. Describe *wavering* from James 1:6b. (Use other versions if you desire)

4. Record the awful consequences of not asking in *faith*. James 1:7

a. What might cause a Christian to doubt that God would supply the *wisdom* asked for?

(1.) What advice would you give a believer who was *wavering* in *faith*?

Challenge: Observe the words *any thing* in James 1:7. What do you think this means?

5. Concentrate on what the following verses teach about *faith*. Add these scriptures to your *faith building* vocabulary. Do not rush through these:

a. Matthew 21:21,22

b. Mark 11:(23)24

c. Luke 1:37

To ask in faith, nothing wavering, is to align our will with His purposes.

-selected-

FOURTH DAY: Read James 1:(5-7) 8

1. What do you learn about the *wavering* man in James 1:8?

a. Define *double minded* in your own words.

(1.) The Greek word *dipsychus*, translated *double minded*, literally means a *divided soul* or a *person of two minds*. What does James 4:8 tell the *double minded* person to do?

b. Notice the phrase *in all his ways* in James 1:8. Contrast this man with the *trusting* one of Proverbs 3:5,6. What do you see?

(1.) *Trust* is the characteristic Old Testament word for the New Testament word *faith; believe*. How does the word *trust* enrich your understanding of the word *faith*?

2. Do you find that your *faith* in the Lord's promises *wavers* at times? What do you do to strengthen your faith?

a. List a few of the things that attack our faith in God's promises that we need to be on guard against.

3. Scan Hebrews 11. What did all of the valiant people have in common (especially note Sara, verse 11)?

a. Observe Abraham's faith from Romans 4:20,21. How is this an example for you?

4. How will lack of faith in God's provision of wisdom affect one's spiritual progress?

*Faith came singing into my room,
And other guests took flight;
Fear and doubt, grief and gloom
Sped out into the night.
I wondered that such peace could be;
but Faith said gently, "Don't you see,
They really cannot live with me."*

Author unknown

FIFTH DAY: Read James 1:9-11

1. Write James 1:9 and 1:10a in two lines.

- a. James here gives us a practical illustration of his exhortation to *count it all joy* no matter what our circumstances by pointing to two classes of people. Observe this from the following Phillip's version. *The brother who is poor may be glad because God has called him to the true riches. The rich may be glad that God has shown him his spiritual poverty. Tell why each should count it all joy.*

(1.) In what did Mary rejoice? Luke 1:46-49,52

2. The contrast of poverty and wealth in James 1:9-11 draws our attention to the *divers temptations* or *various trials* we could fall into in either circumstance. Often the poor man thinks his problems are far worse than the rich man's but the perils of prosperity can be just as dangerous. What might the rich man trust in to bail him out of his various problems or trials? See I Timothy 6:17.

- a. What does *high-minded* say about his attitude?
- b. Observe the phrase *in his ways* (James 1:11c). What will happen to the rich man who trusts in his riches? Use other versions if you desire.

(1.) What will happen to his riches?

Challenge: Do you think the rich man of James 1:10 is the same as the rich man of verse 11? Why or why not?

3. This attitude of rejoicing no matter what your status is certainly not popular in our time nor was it in the time of James' writing. To rejoice we must see our lives in the light of spiritual reality - what is important eternally. We must have God's perspective on our circumstances. The goal of our life now is to grow into Christian maturity. See the rejoicing that James illustrates in response to our difficulties as stepping stones on the path to spiritual maturity. What have you learned about this through James 1:9-11?
4. Put James 1:2,9,10 into practice now by finding the thing/s you can rejoice in regardless of your present circumstances. Write these here.

*My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced
in God my Savior.
For He hath regarded the low
estate of His handmaiden.*

Luke 1:46-48a

SIXTH DAY: Review James 1:5-11

1. How does James 1:5 relate to James 1:2-4?
 - a. Think of Proverbs 14:1 in relationship to (godly) wisdom governing her response to her trials. How will the wise woman react?
2. Review James 1:5-8. What particular facet of prayer in this paragraph spoke to you most powerfully?
 - a. Why?
 - b. What does this passage reveal about God?
3. In what way has James 1:5-8 affected your *faith*?
 - a. How could the behavior of the *dipsychus* person in James 4:8 be an impediment to his or her faith?
 - b. What impact should verse 7 have on a verse 8 man?
4. Share a way James 1:9-11 challenges you to rejoice.
5. Scan your lesson. Choose a scripture or thought that is making a difference in your life this week.

Personal: Is there an area of change you want to make in your life in response to this study?

*If I'm to be whom You desire
All throughout my life
A vessel unto honor, Lord, to Thee
and before Your throne to hear You say
That I have done my part
Lord, I need an undivided heart.*

-Dan Marks