

Joyful Life Bible Studies

JAMES 1:16-21

Lesson 6

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review James 1:12-15. Share how those verses are influencing your choices today.
2. Note and mark the paragraph divisions in this week's study as follows. Define the contents of each with a short sentence:
 - a. James 1:16-18
 - b. James 1:19-21
3. Observe the phrases *word of truth* and *the engrafted word* in James 1:18,21. Think of these phrases in light of Psalm 119:105. Write it here.
 - a. Meditate for a few moments on the *Word* being a *lamp* and a *light*. How does this increase your desire to know and apply the Word of God to your daily walk? Write your answer as a prayer for your study this week.

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.*

-Psalm 119:105

SECOND DAY: Read James 1:16-18

1. *Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.* (James 1:16 NAS) Notice the loving way in which James addresses those to whom he's writing. Briefly state from James 1:13a the deceptive thinking he is dealing with here.

2. Not knowing God's nature and character can result in erroneous concepts and faulty judgments of Him. What does James 1:17 reveal about Him? Answer by completing the following phrases: (Selah - pause and think about each of these.)
 - a. Every
 - b. and cometh down
 - c. with Whom
 - d. neither
3. Examine more closely the phrase *every good gift and every perfect gift is from above*. Read and amplify James 1:17a by stating what Matthew 7:11 reveals about *good gifts*.
 - a. Observe and record a few of these gifts from the following verses:
 - (1.) John 3:16, John 4:10
 - (2.) Acts 2:38
 - (3.) Romans 6:23
 - (4.) James 1:5
 - (5.) II Peter 1:(2)3,4
 - (6.) Psalm 16:7a
4. We return to James 1:14,15 and we confess we all deal with temptations and failure. We recognize that we, not God, are the problem. Then we fall helplessly into James 1:17 and we discover the loving presence of our God Who has provided *everything* we need - everything beneficial, *good*, and exactly appropriate to what is required; every *perfect* gift. He is not the problem, He is the solution. Every need is fully met by His bountiful supply. Why do you think God has done this?

Advanced Students: Define the two Greek words *dosis* and *dorema* translated *gift* in James 1:17 and explain the difference in meaning.

5. Think about God's love, plan, and His gifts to you in contrast to satan's plans for you. View this from John 10:10. What is the thief's purpose? What is God's purpose?
 - a. Explain as you would to a deceived Christian who believes God tempts with evil (see James 1:13,16) why this is impossible.
 - b. How does James 1:17a heighten your awareness of God's gifts to you?

*Isn't He good, Isn't He good,
Hasn't He done all He said He would
Faithful and True, to me and you,
Isn't He good.*

-Beverly Darnall

THIRD DAY: Read James 1:17,18

1. According to James 1:17b from Whom does *every good gift and every perfect gift* descend?
 - a. *Father* in this sense refers to *Originator* or *Creator*. To enrich our understanding of God's nature and character James summons us to gaze at His creative works. See Him as the *Father of Lights* through the lens of Genesis 1:14-19. Share what you see.

(1.) He is not only the Creator of Lights, but what is He according to I John 1:5?

(a.) What does *darkness* represent?

2. His created lights differ from Him in two ways: *they are not always in the same place, nor do they always shine with the same intensity*. Describe God's Light from James 1:17c.

with Whom is _____ (variation)

neither _____.

- a. This attribute of God's *unchangeableness* is called immutability. Using a dictionary define *immutability*.
- b. See God's immutability from Lamentations 3:22 and Malachi 3:6a. God, in His nature and character, is absolutely without change. Living in a changing world where things seem always to fluctuate, are unreliable, and constantly changing, what does it mean to you that our God is *changeless*?

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.*

-Thomas Chisholm

3. View James 1:18a in the light of John 1:13. By Whose will have we been born again?

- a. Define the phrase *word of Truth* in one word from Ephesians 1:13 and Colossians 1:5.

- (1.) Explain the meaning of the word *gospel*.
- b. According to James 1:18c what was His purpose in *begetting* us?
- (1.) *firstfruits* is an agricultural term and refers to the first crops that ripened prior to harvest. To Whom were the *firstfruits* of harvest given? Leviticus 23:(10,11)14
- (2.) The *firstfruits* were offered in grateful sacrifice to God because they belonged to God. (Some Bible scholars believe *firstfruits* in James 1:18 may refer to the first generation of believers as the sign of greater harvest to come.) When we begin to comprehend God's love and purpose for us from James 1:18 - realizing that it was His will that we be born into His Kingdom and be specially His children - a desire to be holy and set apart for Him is kindled in our hearts. Meditate on James 1:18. How are we as Christians to be a kind of *firstfruits* of all He created? (NIV) See I Corinthians 6:19,20.
- (a.) As the *firstfruits* of the harvest belonged to God so we as *firstfruits* of God's harvest belong to Him. Why do Christians resist His ownership and disobey I Corinthians 6:19,20?

*Refiner's fire,
My heart's one desire is to be holy,
set apart for You Lord.
I choose to be holy, set apart for You my
Master, ready to do Your will.*
-B. Doerksen

FOURTH DAY: Read James 1:19-21

1. Pastor Chuck says: *Where there is a **wherefore**, always look for the **therefore**.* In light of God's will for us, revealed in James 1:18, and His love for us, verse 17, what does James 1:19 say we ought to do?
- a. What are we to be quick to hear? See Romans 10:17
- (1.) What are some of the benefits of being a good listener in all aspects of life?
- b. View *slow to speak* from the following scriptures:
- (1.) Proverbs 10:19

(2.) Proverbs 18:13

(3.) Psalm 141:3

c. Why does man's *wrath* not bring about the righteous life God desires?

2. Concentrate on James 1:19 for a few minutes. Read it in other versions. This is a good verse to memorize. How will adherence to the exhortations in this verse help us to grow spiritually?

a. In what ways do you think following these commands would affect interpersonal relationships?

b. Of these three, which do you have the greatest problem with?

(1.) How would James 1:17a help you with this?

c. Think on the following verses in relationship to James 1:19 and summarize their message:

(1.) Proverbs 16:32

(2.) Proverbs 25:28

3. Write James 1:19 in your own words personalizing it. Begin your sentence with: *In recognition of God's love for me and purpose for my life,*

4. Share any scriptures that especially minister to you in conjunction with James 1:19.

FIFTH DAY: Read James 1:21

1. Write James 1:21kjv here phrase by phrase.

a. Write the following underlined words or phrases from the NIV over the appropriate words in the KJV: Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you which can save you.

b. How do the following scriptures help you sort out what you are to *get rid of* and what you are to *accept*:

(1.) Ephesians 4:21-31 - summarize

(2.) Colossians 3:1-14 - summarize

c. How will continuing to hang on to the stuff we are to get rid of hinder the *reception* or *acceptance* of God's Word?

d. Why is humility a necessary ingredient in our receptiveness to the Word?

(1.) In what way does *hearing* the Word differ from *receiving* (accepting) the Word?

2. What does the *engrafted* Word do for us?

a. What provides ideal soil for the implanted Word and how will the following verses help prepare the soil:

(1.) I John 1:9

(2.) Jeremiah 4:3

(3.) Hosea 10:12(13)

(4.) How does weeding affect the soil?

Challenge: What parallels can you draw from Jesus' Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:3-9) and James 1:21b?

3. In practical terms what is James 1:21 saying to you?

a. What difference will applying this verse make in your life?

*You want to grow in grace.
Then be sure you are alive at the roots.*

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SIXTH DAY: Review James 1:16-21

1. Explain how James 1:17,18 encourage you when you are experiencing temptation to sin.
2. What particular insight have you gained through the study of James 1:16-21?
3. In what specific way has James 1:17-21 ministered to you?
4. How have these verses made a difference in your life this week?
 - a. If a Christian chooses to disregard or ignore James 1:21, what might be the result in his or her life?
5. What changes would you like to experience in response to this lesson?
6. What from James 1:17-21 are you most eager to share with someone else?
7. What one thing would you like every Christian to clearly understand from James 1:16-21?

*Speak, Lord, in the stillness, While I wait on Thee;
Hush'd my heart to listen in expectancy.
All to Thee is yielded, I am not my own!
Blissful, glad surrender - I am Thine alone!*

E. Grimes

