

The Book of James

Lesson 1: Introduction

1. Author

James, the brother of Jesus, is the author of the book of James.

2. Scripture references about James.

John 7:3-5

At first, James was not a believer in his brother, Jesus.

That changed. We see from Acts 1:14 that James was present on the _____

Acts 1:14

Acts 12:17

When Peter was supernaturally released from prison, he mentioned James specifically.

Acts 15:13-21

James was the _____ when important decisions had to be made in the early church.

Acts 21:18

Galatians 1:19

Paul tells about a special meeting he had with James.

Galatians 2:9

James is described as a pillar in the church. That means they were leaders who brought stability and support to the church.

He was part of the _____ that recognized the calling upon the Apostle Paul and sent him out on his missionary journeys.

1 Corinthians 15:7

When Jesus rose from the dead, he had a special one-on-one meeting with James.

Church historian, Eusebius, in his Ecclesiastical History, wrote this about James – “frequently found upon his knees begging forgiveness for the people, so that his knees became hard like those of a camel.”

3. Date

The Book of James was written 48-62 A.D.

4. James was stoned to death in 62 A.D.

James was the leader _____

Two years after the death of Paul, the Jewish Sanhedrin turned their attention to James.

The Sanhedrin demanded that James renounce his faith in Christ a large gathering of people in Jerusalem. Instead, James preached the Gospel to the multitude.

They dragged him to the top of the Temple and threw him off. The fall did not kill him, so he was then stoned to death.

5. Facts about the book of James

Martin Luther called James _____

James deals with the character of a Christian. Some of the things covered in the Book of James are:

- _____
- Be a doer of the Word by putting works with your faith.
- Treat others in the church with respect.
- _____

James deals with the attitude of the heart.

James is a practical book, showing us how to live right.

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Lesson 2: Trials and Temptations: James 1:1-20

1. Trials

James 1:1-4

This scripture tells us that joy should be our _____

This scripture does _____ tell us where trials come from.

Definition of TRIAL (Greek word - PEIRA): _____

2. The tempter

Matthew 4:1-3

In Matthew 4:3 “the tempter” is the Greek word PEIARZO

Satan is the tempter. This is one of Satan’s names!

3. Jesus was tempted by the devil.

Luke 4:1, 2

Into = _____

The Holy Spirit led Jesus while He was in the wilderness. He did not lead Him there with the purpose of being tempted by the devil.

The Holy Spirit does not lead us to be tempted. He helps us _____ temptation!

Where does He lead us?

Psalm 23:1, 2

James 1:2, 13

The Greek word PEIRA is used in both of these verses.

God does not PEIRA anyone! He does not put anyone through a trial or temptation.

1 Corinthians 10:13

The devil is the _____ and God provides _____

4. Enduring temptation**James 1:12**

Definitions of ENDURES:

- To hold one's ground in conflict
- _____
- Hold out under stress
- _____
- Persevere under pressure
- _____
- It is not a passive resignation to fate and mere patience, but rather it is the active energetic resistance to defeat that allows calm and brave endurance.

Definition of APPROVED or TRIED: One who is of tried faith and integrity

James 1:14, 15

Satan is the source of temptation, but that does not leave an excuse for the Christian.

When inner desire responds to outward temptation, sin is the result.

5. Good gifts**James 1:16, 17**

Definition of GOOD: _____

A good gift is a gift that produces benefits.

Definition of PERFECT: That which has been brought to its end; finished; complete

James 1:17 – The Amplified Bible

Every good gift and every perfect (free, large, full) gift is from above; it comes down from the Father of all [that gives] light, in [the shining of] Whom there can be no variation [rising or setting] or shadow cast by His turning [as in an eclipse].

What does shadow of turning mean?

When a sundial had no shadow, the sun was at its peak.

God is always at _____

6. Does God ever test you?

God is not the _____

2 Corinthians 4:4

Satan is called the god of this age (or this world).

The laws that govern the earth today, for the most part, came into being with the fall of man and the curse that came into the earth.

Because people do not understand that, they accuse God of bad things that happen in their lives.

God is not responsible for, nor the author of anything evil, that happens in your life.

John 6:5, 6

Many theologians estimate that the crowd of people was about 50,000.

The question asked by Jesus was an impossibility. Even if Jesus and the disciples had the money, the task was an impossibility.

Jesus already knew what He was going to do.

If that is the case, why did Jesus ask Philip the question?

The Greek word for test gives the idea that Jesus was exposing to Philip the level of his faith.

You may think your faith is strong. However, you do not really know the quality of your faith until Jesus asks you to do something outside of your comfort zone.

The test is not for God to know what your faith will do. The test is for you to know what your faith will do.

When a new car is revealed, there is a test drive for the public. It is not for the designers of the car to know what the car can do. It is for the people to know what the car can do.

When God tests your faith, it is not so that He can know the strength of your faith. It is for you to know the strength of your faith.

7. Walking in the Spirit

James 1:18-20

In context, James is still dealing with going through a trial. These are some of the qualities needed when the devil is putting you through a trial.

Galatians 5:16-26

Walking in the Spirit is simply having _____
operating in your life.

Proverbs 8:34

Proverbs 18:13

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Lesson 3: The Sovereignty of God: What Does it Mean? James 1:1-4

1. Definitions

Definition of SOVEREIGN (adjective): _____

Definition of SOVEREIGNTY (noun): Supremacy in rule or power, power to govern without external control

2. Sovereign

The word “sovereign” is used in the NIV translation of the Bible.

The word “sovereign” does not appear in other translations, nor does it appear in the original Greek text.

3. When someone says, “God is sovereign”, they tend to mean the following:

- _____
- God heals those whom He wants to heal and chooses not to heal others.
- If something happens it must be God’s will.
- _____

4. You cannot separate God from His Word.

John 1:1

Psalm 138:2 – Amplified Bible

... for you have exalted above all else Your name and Your word and You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

Jeremiah 1:12

Definition of READY: _____

Jeremiah 1:12 could be read this way – “I watch over My Word to see it fulfilled.”

Question: Can God do whatever He wants to do?

Answer: _____

5. God's will does not always happen.

Question: Is God in control?

Answer: Yes. But God's will does not always come to pass.

2 Peter 3:9

Statement: If God wants him saved then he will get saved.

Answer: No. Why evangelize with this belief?

Ephesians 1:4, 5

If you read only this passage of scripture, you might think that everything results from God's will.

6. Scripture interprets scripture

Revelation 22:17

Matthew 23:37

John 3:16

7. Satan is operating in this world.

1 Thessalonians 2:17, 18

8. The mountain will not move all by itself.

Statement: Whatever will be, will be.

Answer: _____

Mark 11:22-24

Statement: It will all happen in God's timing.

Answer: This is saying that God will move the mountain when He wants to move it.

Luke 8:43-48

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Lesson 4: Being a Doer of the Word: James 1:21-25 / James 1:5-11

1. Living right is important

James 1:21

Before the Word of God can renew your mind, you must make a decision _____

2. The Word is a mirror

James 1:22-25

We should not only _____ to the Word, we should also do or _____ it.

The Word is called a mirror. When we look into the Word we can see two things:

- What we need to correct and change in our lives
- What we truly are as believers in Jesus Christ

It is important that you look at yourself in the Word of God.
We should be careful to avoid seeing (judging) others in the Word.

You should be more concerned with yourself.

Hearing and doing go together.

- Hearing but not doing = _____
- Hearing and doing = _____

Matthew 7:24-27

Romans 2:13 *for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;*

The Gospel is called the law of liberty.

- _____
- Freedom is attained by submitting to life-giving laws.

Definition of CONTINUES: Continues to do so; not departing until all stains are washed away.

3. Wisdom

James 1:5

We can pray for wisdom.

God will give us wisdom liberally and without reproach.

Definition of LIBERALLY:

- _____
- Openly
- Frankly
- _____
- Led solely by His desire to bless

Definition of WITHOUT REPROACH: Not condescendingly or in an insulting way

4. Asking in faith

James 1:6

Definition of ASK: _____

It is not commanding, but rather asking something you know He wants to give you.

5. Double-minded

James 1:7, 8

Someone who doubts when they pray will not receive anything from the Lord.

Definition of DOUBLE-MINDED:

- _____
- Uncertain
- _____

James 4:8

The Bible gives examples of praying in faith.

Mark 11:23, 24**Romans 4:21**

When you pray a prayer of faith, you _____ God's will in the situation.

A person who vacillates between faith and unbelief is unstable in all his ways, not just his prayer life.

6. Rich and poor in the Body of Christ**James 1:9-11****James 1:9, 10 – Amplified Bible**

Let the brother in humble circumstances glory in his elevation [as a Christian, called to the true riches and to be an heir of God], and the rich [person ought to glory] in being humbled [by being shown his human frailty], because like the flower of the grass he will pass away.

Definition of LOWLY: _____

The Christian who is poor materially can rejoice in his or her position in Christ.

This is not saying it is a sin to be rich.

Those who pursue riches will fade away. Actually, every material possession will not last.

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Lesson 5: Pure Religion: James 1:26, 27

1. Definitions

Definition of RELIGION: _____

This is speaking about an _____ demonstration of an _____ reality.

“Religion” used here is speaking about your behavior as a Christian.

Definition of PURE:

- Free from everything that is false
- _____
- Genuine

Why do we reach out to others and help them? Are we just doing our “religious duty”? Are we reaching out because we really want to?

According to this text, pure and undefiled religion includes the following things:

- Control over your tongue
- _____
- Purity in your lifestyle

We do all of these things because we have a desire to serve God and see others saved.

2. Control over your tongue. (This will be dealt with in a later lesson.)

3. Taking care of the physical needs of people

This is a vital part of being a Christian.

Matthew 22:34-40

This is a great spiritual combination – Loving _____ and loving our _____

Who is my neighbor?

Answer #1: _____

1 John 3:16-18

This tells us that love is an action! We are not supposed to love with our words.

James 2:15, 16

Answer #2: _____

Luke 6:31-35

How far am I supposed to go in serving my fellow man?

Answer: _____

Psalm 82:3, 4

Proverbs 31:8, 9

Deuteronomy 14:28, 29

Deuteronomy 10:17-19

Definition of VISIT:

- _____
- To go see
- _____

We are supposed to deliberately seek out those in need and relieve their distress.

Isaiah 58:6-10

Religious (traditional) deeds do not please God.

4. Purity in your lifestyle

_____ attracts the anointing.

Hebrews 1:8, 9

Jesus was anointed because He lived holy.

Holiness is not legalism. When you are truly born again you have a desire to do the right thing.

Jeremiah 31:33

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Lesson 6: Favoritism: James 2:1-13

1. Favoritism

James 2:1

Definition of PARTIALITY:

- _____
- Partiality
- Distinction
- _____
- Conditional preference

Definition of FAVORITISM: The showing of a special liking for one person or a few individuals in a group by acts of partiality where impartiality is called for.

2. Favoritism based on appearance

James 2:2-4

3. Favoritism based on status

James 2:5-7

4. Loving your neighbor

James 2:8

Definition of ROYAL LAW: _____

5. Favoritism is a sin.

James 2:9

6. God and His law

James 2:10, 11

James is not saying that committing one sin makes you guilty of every other individual sin.

The law is an expression of God's will.

7. Judgement

James 2:4

This verse explains that showing favoritism is a form of judgment.

This is judging one's value based on his or her status and appearance. This is a sin.

James 2:12, 13

"Judgment" is speaking of the same kind of judgment in James 2:4.

This kind of judgment has no mercy in it.

Definition of MERCY:

- _____
- Tender mercy
- _____

Showing compassion and mercy is better than showing favoritism.

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Lesson 7: Faith and Works: James 2:14-26

1. James speaks of two kinds of faith.

James 2:17

James 2:26

The first kind of faith is _____

James 2:22

The second kind is _____

2. Works naturally cooperate with faith.

James 2:14 – Weymouth Bible

What good is it, my brethren, if a man professes to have faith and yet his actions do not correspond?

James 2:22 – Weymouth Bible

You notice that faith was cooperating with his actions, and that by his actions his faith was perfected.

3. Saving faith produces an obedient life.

James 2:14

4. You can know if someone has faith by seeing his or her works.

James 2:18

Luke 5:18-20

5. It is not saving faith to just have a belief in God.

James 2:19

6. Faith creates works. Works make faith perfect.

James 2:22

Definition of PERFECT: _____

7. Abraham had works with his faith.**James 2:21-24**

You are saved by faith alone, but a true born-again experience produces works.

8. Biblical examples of faith and works cooperating

- _____

2 Kings 4:1-7

- _____

Luke 10:1, 17

- _____

He didn't just pray for an ark to get built. He built it!

9. Rahab**James 2:25**

Question: What did Rahab do?

Answer: _____

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Lesson 8: Higher Law: James 2:24

1. Rahab

Joshua 2:1-6, 15

Rahab was _____ because of what she did.

She is listed in the Chapter of Faith.

Hebrews 11:31

She is in the lineage of Jesus.

Matthew 1:5

2. God's law is higher than man's law.

The Bible gives two reasons for breaking the law of man.

The first reason for breaking man's law is _____

- Rahab

- _____

Exodus 1:15-21

They feared God.

- _____

Exodus 1:22 – 2:10

Hebrews 11:23

- _____

Matthew 2:7, 8, 12

The second reason for breaking man's law is _____

- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego

Daniel 3:13-18

Deuteronomy 6:13, 14

They were putting the law of God first. It held a place above man's law.

- _____

Daniel 6:5

The men who hated Daniel _____ he would follow a higher law.

Daniel 6:10-13

Daniel 6:22

In God's sight, Daniel was absolutely innocent, even though he disobeyed the king's decree.

- _____

Acts 4:18-20

Acts 5:19-29

These situations were not acts of haughty defiance. We do not rebel against any law we do not like. Breaking man's law is incidental to walking out your convictions.

All these people are examples of putting action to their faith.

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Lesson 9: The Words We Speak: James 3:1-12

1. Stricter judgement of teachers

James 3:1

Question: Why do teachers receive a stricter judgment?

Answer: Teachers are not only responsible for themselves; they are also responsible for the things they teach others.

This verse is not out of place. A teacher will be judged for the words they speak.

Matthew 12:37

Tongue = _____

2. Control over your words

James 3:2

Definition of PERFECT: _____

If one can control his tongue, he possesses the ability to control his _____

James 3:2 – Amplified Bible

For we all often stumble and fall and offend in many things. And if anyone does not offend in speech [never says the wrong things], he is a fully developed character and a perfect man, able to control his whole body and to curb his entire nature.

Proverbs 10:19

3. The size of the tongue is not a measure of its power.

James 3:3-5

Although it is small, it has much power like:

- Bits in horses' mouths
- _____
- A little fire that becomes a forest fire

James 3:6

Definition of WORLD OF INIQUITY: _____

Your words can defile the whole body

Your words set the course of your life

The words that you speak determine blessing or curse for your life.

The words that you speak determine the _____

Bits and rudders determine direction. Your words do the same thing.

4. Blessings and curses should not come out of the same mouth.**James 3:7-12**

Blessings and curses should not come out of the same mouth.

Evil speech about other people is unfitting for a believer.

5. Proverbs

The Book of Proverbs has much to say about your words.

Proverbs 10:11

Proverbs 10:14

Proverbs 11:9

Proverbs 11:11

Proverbs 13:2, 3

Proverbs 17:20

Proverbs 18:20

Proverbs 21:23

6. God gives us the ability to choose life or death with our words.**Deuteronomy 30:19**

It is our responsibility to make a choice between life and death.

How do you make that choice?

Proverbs 18:21

We choose life or death with _____

7. Whenever we speak to someone else, we should build them up, not tear them down.**Romans 14:19**

Definition of EDIFY: Architecture or concrete structure is the foundational meaning of edify. It means to be a house builder.

When we edify another person, it means we build them up, confirm them, and embolden them.

Definition of EMBOLDEN: _____

1 Thessalonians 5:11

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Lesson 10: Wisdom: James 3:13-18

1. Definition of wisdom

Definition of WISDOM: _____

James is speaking of practical and moral wisdom, not knowledge.

James 3:13

The proof of wisdom is in a person's _____

2. What is wisdom?

Wisdom is making the right decision or the basis for making a right decision.

Psalm 111:10

Definition of FEAR OF THE LORD: _____

The fear of the Lord will have an effect on all of your decisions.

This is the _____ of wisdom.

3. Wisdom that is not from God

James 3:14-16

Definition of ENVY: _____

Definition of SELF-SEEKING: _____

Earthly wisdom is _____

Anytime you make a decision based only on how it will affect you, it is wrong decision making. This is not Godly wisdom.

Definition of EARTHLY: _____

Definition of SENSUAL:

- _____
- Living in the realm of the five senses only
- Wisdom in harmony with corrupt desires and affections.

Definition of DEMONIC: _____

Where there is jealousy and selfish ambition there exists confusion and every evil thing.

Jeremiah 8:8, 9

Ezekiel 28:12, 17

The wisdom of Lucifer was corrupted with pride.

4. Godly wisdom

James 3:17, 18

Godly wisdom is not self-centered.

Godly wisdom is:

- Definition of PURE: _____
- Definition of PEACEABLE: _____
- Definition of GENTLE: _____
- Willing to yield to reason
- Full of mercy and good fruits
- Impartial
- Not hypocritical

Proverbs 11:12

Godly wisdom is humble.

Godly wisdom produces _____

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Lesson 11: Pride vs. Humility: James 4:1-17

1. Many conflicts that occur in the church are a result of the flesh.

James 4:1

2. James describes the manipulation of situations and people that takes place in order for someone to get their own way.

James 4:2

What does James mean when he says that believers murder?

Matthew 5:21, 22

1 John 3:15

James 4:2 – Amplified Bible

You are jealous and covet [what others have] and your desires go unfulfilled; [so] you become murderers. [To hate is to murder as far as your hearts are concerned].

Definition of COVET: _____

3. God will not bless self-centeredness.

James 4:3

Definition of AMISS: _____

When we do not receive from God, it is not always because of a lack of faith.

4. Friends with God or the world?

James 4:4

James 4:4 – Amplified Bible

You [are like] unfaithful wives [having illicit love affairs with the world] and breaking your marriage vows to God! Do you not know that being the world's friend is being God's enemy? So whoever chooses to be a friend of the world takes his stand as an enemy of God.

We are in covenant with God. When we walk away from that covenant we are committing spiritual adultery.

If you find pleasure in the world, you make yourself an _____

5. Humility

James 4:5, 6

More power of the Holy Spirit is given to the _____ who are friends of God.

James 4:6 – Amplified Bible

But He gives us more and more grace (power of the Holy Spirit, to meet this evil tendency and all others fully). That is why He says, “God sets Himself against the proud and haughty, but gives grace [continually] to the lowly (those who are humble enough to receive it).”

6. A formula guaranteed to make the devil flee.

James 4:7

The first step is to submit to God.

Definition of SUBMIT: _____

If you are trying to resist the devil, but not submitting to God, the devil will not flee from you.

The second step is to resist the devil.

Definition of RESIST:

- Vigorously opposing
- _____
- Standing face to face against an adversary
- _____

Ephesians 6:13

The word “withstand” is the same Greek word translated “resist” in James 4:7.

James 4:7

One way to resist the devil is by wearing the whole armor of God.

_____ both must be practiced to make the devil flee.

7. Moving closer to God.

James 4:8, 9

There is a responsibility on your part to cause your relationship with God to be closer.

This is speaking about _____

There are times in the life of a Christian when he or she should show true repentance.

James 4:9 – Amplified Bible

[As you draw near to God] be deeply penitent and grieve, even weep [over your disloyalty]. Let your laughter be turned to grief and your mirth to dejection and heartfelt shame [for your sins].

8. More about humility and repentance

James 4:10

The result of true repentance is _____

You are supposed to humble yourself. God does not humble you.

The result of humility is being lifted up. The result of pride is a fall.

Proverbs 16:18

Definition of HUMBLE: This word describes a person who is willingly submitted to God and His will.

9. Judgement of others

James 4:11, 12

James 4:11, 12 – Living Bible

Don't criticize and speak evil about each other, dear brothers. If you do, you will be fighting against God's law of loving one another, declaring it is wrong. But your job is not to decide whether this law is right or wrong, but to obey it. Only he who made the law can rightly judge among us. He alone decides to save us or destroy. So what right do you have to judge or criticize others?

Matthew 7:1-5

Jesus is dealing with a spirit of fault finding.

Fault finding is often done in the name of discernment.

This does not forbid condemnation of sin.

10. There is a right way to judge.

When we are in the position to judge we must do it with the correct measure – the Word of God.

There is a _____ way to judge. Jesus addresses this a few verses later into Matthew 7.

Matthew 7:15-20

11. Consider God’s will when making plans for your live.

James 4:13-16

It is not wrong to have goals and plans for your life.

It is boasting and prideful to think that you can make plans for your life without consulting God.

God owns you. Your life is _____

1 Corinthians 6:19, 20

12. The sin of omission

James 4:17

Most of the time when we think of sin, we think about sins of commission.

Sin is not only committing evil deeds; it is also passively failing to do what you know God wants you to do. This is the sin of omission.

Matthew 25:31-46

Proverbs 24:11, 12 – Living Bible

Rescue those unjustly sentenced to death; don’t stand back and let them die. Don’t try to disclaim responsibility by saying you didn’t know about it. For God, who knows all hearts, knows yours, and he knows you knew! And he will reward everyone according to his deeds.

Sin is not just doing something _____. Sin is also not doing something _____

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Lesson 12: Materialism, Perseverance & Prayer: James 5:1-20

1. The responsibility of riches

James 5:1-6

James 5:3 – New International Version

... you have hoarded wealth in the last days.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

It is not wrong to be rich.

There is a great _____ on those who have riches.

2. Jesus is coming again.

James 5:7, 8

Be patient for the coming of the Lord.

We should not be sitting around waiting for Christ to return. We must be doing the business of a Christian.

Luke 19:13

3. God judges Christians who grumble against each other.

James 5:9

Definition of GRUMBLE:

- _____
- Complain
- _____
- Comes from a root word which means to be an obstacle

Christians who cannot get along with each other and hold onto offenses become obstacles in the Body of Christ.

4. Suffering

James 5:10

Definition of SUFFERING: _____

The suffering that the prophets experienced was suffering from persecution.

Definition of PATIENCE:

- Patience
- _____
- Steadfastness
- Perseverance in dealing with persecution

5. Blessing comes with enduring persecution.

James 5:11

6. Be a person of integrity.

James 5:12

You should be a person of your word.

Definition of JUDGMENT: _____

If you do not do what you say people will not take you seriously.

7. Healing comes from calling on the elders.

James 5:13-15

The initiative lies with the sick person in calling for the elders.

Anointing with oil is a point of contact for their faith. James stresses in verse fifteen that it is the prayer of faith that saves the sick person.

8. James continues with his instructions about healing and prayer.

James 5:15, 16

Sometimes _____ can be the cause of _____

A more accurate translation from the Greek language would be the following: *The intense prayer of a righteous person has much power.*

James 5:16 – Amplified Bible

The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].

9. We can learn how to pray from Elijah.

James 5:17, 18

Elijah was a man just like us.

He prayed and got results. Therefore, we can _____

1 Kings 18:41-45

10. Once we are saved, can we walk away from it?

James 5:19, 20

Every New Testament letter was written to Christians.

“Among you” suggests that the one in sin is a member of the church.

Definition of SINNER: _____