

# **James**

**By**

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# James

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## James

### I. James explained the purpose of trials - 1:1-18

#### A. The greeting - 1:1

##### **James was a bondservant of God**

In the Roman Empire bondservants were slaves - Ephesians 6:5-8

##### **James was a bondservant of the Lord Jesus Christ**

James was a son of Mary (half brother of Christ) - Matthew 13:55

The half brothers of Christ did not believe Him at first - John 7:3-5

The half brothers later became followers - Acts 1:14

##### **James originally sent greetings to the Jews who were scattered**

Many had been scattered by persecution - Acts 8:1-4

##### **James wrote to those who said they were followers of Christ**

He knew some were just professing followers - James 4:1-4

#### B. Learning to experience joy in testing 1:2-3

##### 1. Joy is a decision of the will - 1:2

##### **We are to count it joy when in trials (temptations)**

The apostles counted it joy when they suffered for Christ - Acts 5:41

The Lord counted Paul faithful and put him into the ministry 1 Timothy 1:12

##### **We will experience various trials (temptations)**

Can be translated either trials or temptation - 1 Corinthians 10:13

Those who have no root will fall away when temptation comes - Luke 8:13

Trials become temptation when we depend on our own strength - Mark 14:38

We are able to endure temptation when we yield to God - James 1:12

##### 2. Joy causes our lives to develop patience - 1:3

##### **Trials test our faith**

The purpose of trials is to show the genuineness of our faith - 1 Peter 1:6-7

The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations - 2 Peter 2:9

##### **Trials develop patience**

Tribulation produces perseverance (patience) - Romans 5:3

Through patience and the comfort of the Scriptures, we have hope - Romans 15:4

We are to grow in patience as we mature - Titus 2:2

## **C. Learning to become mature through testing - 1:4-8**

### **1. God says as we mature in Christ, we develop patience - 1:4**

#### **We are to let patience have its perfect work**

Patience develops as we grow through tribulation - Romans 5:3

Patience develops as we have our hope in our Lord Jesus Christ - 1 Thess. 1:3

#### **This is how we become perfect (mature)**

We grow in our knowledge and application of the Word - Ephesians 4:13

Strong meat belongs to those who are mature - Hebrews 5:14

Paul wanted to present every person perfect in Christ - Colossians 1:28

#### **This is how we become complete**

We become whole or complete as the Lord sanctifies us - 1 Thess. 5:23

#### **This is what causes us to lack nothing**

Send Zenas and Apollos so that they lack nothing - Titus 3:13

A brother or sister could lack daily food - James 2:15

### **2. God tells us to ask Him for wisdom - 1:5**

#### **We are told what to do if we lack wisdom**

This is not talking about worldly wisdom - James 3:15

This is talking about the lack of godly wisdom - James 3:17

We are not to be wise in our own eyes - Proverbs 3:5-7

#### **We are to bring our requests to God**

We see that we are to request wisdom from the Lord - Proverbs 2:2-4

We see that the Lord is the One who gives wisdom - Proverbs 2:5-6

#### **We are to realize that God gives generously**

God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy - Ecclesiastes 2:26

God has already given us His Spirit - 1 John 4:13

Paul prayed that God would give the spirit of wisdom - Ephesians 1:17

#### **We are to realize that God gives without reproach**

The world may revile and persecute us - Matthew 5:11; Luke 6:22

We may be reproached for our witness about Christ - 1 Peter 4:14

Isaiah predicted that Christ would be spoken against - Isaiah 53:7

This reproach of Christ was also prophesied in Psalms - Psalm 69:9

Christ was mocked and reviled for us on the cross - Mark 15:32

#### **We are to have faith that God will answer**

Faith is knowing that God will do exactly as He promised - Heb. 11:1

We are to keep asking and we will receive - Matthew 7:7

### 3. God tells us to ask Him in faith - 1:6

#### **We are to ask in faith**

Without faith it is impossible to please God - Hebrews 11:6

In our own strength we experience I, me and my - Romans 7:15-25

When we ask in faith, we experience the power of the Spirit - Romans 8:35-39  
(the Holy Spirit is mentioned 19 times in Romans 8, one time in Romans 1-7;  
that one time is very important for Christians to grow - Romans 5:5)

#### **We are to ask with no doubting**

God can move mountains for those who believe - Mark 11:23

A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways - James 1:8

#### **Those who doubt are like a wave of the sea**

Peter and the other disciples knew this lesson by experience - Matthew 14:18-23

Christians can have doubts about many things - Romans 14:1-4, 23

#### **Waves are driven by the sea and tossed by the wind**

Those who are spiritually immature often experience this - Eph. 4:14

The disciples' boat had been tossed by the wind - Matthew 14:24

### 4. God says a man with doubts will not receive wisdom - 1:7

#### **He cannot expect an answer**

A double-minded person may ask for the wrong reasons - James 4:3

He may be asking for things that are not the will of God - 1 John 5:14-15

#### **He will not receive anything from the Lord**

Some people may be deceived by a different Gospel - Galatians 1:6-8

Some people may listen to other spirits - 2 Corinthians 11:4

Some people may depend on worldly wisdom - James 3:15-16

He is either spiritually shortsighted or spiritually blind - 2 Peter 1:9

Such a person needs to make sure of his salvation - 2 Peter 2:10-11

### 5. God describes a double-minded person - 1:8

#### **He is a double-minded man**

I hate the double-minded (divided thoughts) - Psalm 119:113

A double-minded man may not be a believer - James 4:1-4

#### **He is unstable in all of his ways**

Such a person cannot cease from sin - 2 Peter 2:14

He may be religious but not have a true faith - Revelation 3:16

He may be spiritually dead - Ephesians 2:1-3

## **D. Learning to stand strong in testing - 1:9-12**

### **1. God describes the lowly brother - 1:9**

**The lowly brother is given a reason to glory**

The Lord sets on high those who are lowly - Job 5:11

**He can glory in his exaltation**

The Lord will transform our lowly body - Philippians 3:21

### **2. God tells the rich man to be humble - 1:10**

**The rich man can glory in his humiliation**

We are to walk with all lowliness and humiliation - Philippians 2:3

**The rich man can realize he will pass away like the grass**

The rich man will also wither away like grass - Psalm 102:11

### **3. God says that a rich man and his riches will fade away - 1:11**

**The sun often rises with a burning heat**

Jonah wanted to die because of the heat - Jonah 4:8

**The burning sun quickly withers the grass**

The grass is here then quickly gone - Psalm 90:5-6

**The burning sun causes the beautiful flower to fall**

The grass is here today and gone tomorrow - Matthew 6:30

**The rich man will also fade away in his pursuits**

The rich often oppress and drag into the courts - James 2:6

### **4. God blesses the man that endures temptation - 1:12**

**The man who endures temptation is blessed**

Christians are provided a way of escape by the Lord - 1 Corinthians 10:12-13

This happens when people both hear and obey - James 1:22

**He can look forward to approval by God**

God has prepared many things for those who love Him - 1 Corinthians 2:9

**He will receive the crown of life**

Christ promised the crown of life to all the faithful - Revelation 2:10

**Christ promised this crown to all who love Him**

Love is received by all saved by grace - 2 Corinthians 13:14

The faithful unto death will receive the crown of life - Revelation 2:10

## **E. Learning why we sin - 1:13-15**

### **1. Temptation does not come from God - 1:13**

**No person can say they are tempted by God**

We are tempted by the sin in our own hearts - Matthew 15:19

**God cannot be tempted by evil**

God cannot be tempted by evil because He is holy - 1 Peter 1:16

**God does not tempt anyone else**

It is impossible for God to lie - Hebrews 6:18

### **2. Temptation is the result of our own sinful lusts - 1:14**

**We are tempted when we are drawn away**

We are called to flee from youthful lusts - 2 Timothy 2:22

We are to follow the example of those who imitate Christ - 1 Corinthians 11:1

**This drawing away is due to our own desires**

Our own desires are attracted by the bait Satan offers - Matthew 15:18-20

**Those desires lead to being enticed by something**

Satan is only able to tempt us three ways - 1 John 2:16

The lust of the flesh (Eve saw the tree was good for food) - Ephesians 2:3

The lust of the eyes (Eve saw it was pleasant to the eyes) - Romans 1:24, 26-32

The pride of life (Eve saw it was desirable to make one wise) - James 3:15

### **3. Temptation leads to death when followed - 1:15**

**Desire conceives**

The flesh lusts against the Spirit - Galatians 5:17, 19-21

Strong desire (lusts of men) go beyond God's plan - 1 Peter 4:1-2

We are to present ourselves as slaves to righteousness - Romans 6:19

God gives us His strength to live righteously when we yield - Titus 2:11-15

**That desire then gives birth to sin**

Sin develops first in the heart - Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 17:9

**Sin becomes an action when it is full grown**

The sin of unbelief develops in the heart - John 16:9

The sin of unbelief is shown by actions - Hebrews 3:12

**Sin brings forth death**

Sin passed from Adam to all mankind - Romans 5:12

The wages of sin is death - Romans 6:23



## **F. Learning the source of all good gifts - 1:16-18**

### **1. God did not want Christians to be deceived - 1:16**

#### **James wrote that God does not want us to be deceived**

We were deceived before we became Christians - 1 Corinthians 6:9

We can be deceived by invitations to sinful living - 1 John 3:7-8

We can be deceived with false beliefs - 1 John 1:8

#### **James viewed other Christians as beloved brethren**

James used this phrase several times - James 1:19, 2:5

### **2. God is the source of every good gift - 1:17**

#### **Every good gift comes from God**

God is the giver of all good gifts - John 3:27

#### **Every perfect gift comes from God**

The gifts that God gives are perfect - Colossians 1:28

#### **These gifts come down from the Father of lights**

God is the source of physical lights (sun, moon and stars) - Genesis 1:16

Christ is the True Light that came into the world - John 8:12

Christ is the One who also gives spiritual light - Luke 2:32

#### **God does not change in his character**

Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever - Hebrews 13:8

#### **God does not even give a changing shadow**

There is no darkness in Him at all - 1 John 1:5

### **3. God is the source of our spiritual life - 1:18**

#### **God is the source of all things that He wills**

God chose to show His will when He saved us - Hebrews 6:17-19

#### **God is the One who brought us forth**

We became Christians when it pleased God - Galatians 1:15

God made us alive when we were spiritually dead - Ephesians 2:5-6

#### **God brought us forth by the word of truth**

We were born again through the Word of God - 1 Peter 1:23

#### **God wants us to be a kind of firstfruits**

We were given the Holy Spirit to empower us - Romans 8:23

#### **God has made us better than all his other creatures**

God created us in His image - Genesis 1:27

## II. James explained the purpose of the Word of God - 1:19-27

### A. We are to be quick to hear the Word of God - 1:19-21

#### 1. The Lord wants Christians to really hear - 1:19

##### **James wrote to beloved brethren**

James wrote originally to scattered Jewish Christians - James 1:1

##### **James said Christians should be swift to hear**

Hear means to hear so there is understanding and action - Luke 11:28

We are to hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches - Revelation 3:13

Paul said to do the things he had shown and taught - Philippians 4:9

##### **James said Christians should be slow to speak**

In the multitude of words sin is not lacking - Proverbs 10:19

A wise man holds his feelings back - Proverbs 29:11

##### **James said Christians should be slow to wrath**

The one who rules his spirit is better than the mighty - Proverbs 16:32

#### 2. The Lord warns of the danger of the wrath of man - 1:20

##### **The wrath of man results in conflict**

Conflict in the church is a sign of spiritual immaturity - 1 Corinthians 3:3

Conflict between Christians is against the plan of God - Philippians 4:2

##### **The wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God**

Christians are to put away wrath and other forms of anger - Ephesians 4:31

God will be the righteous judge in the future - Romans 12:19

#### 3. The Lord tells us how to receive the Word of God - 1:21

##### **Christians are to lay aside all filthiness**

We are to lay aside all malice - 1 Peter 2:1

##### **Christians are to lay aside the overflow of wickedness**

We lived in malice before we became Christians - Titus 3:3

(This word is usually translated malice or maliciousness)

We are to put off malice and other evil speaking - Colossians 3:8

##### **Christians are to receive the implanted word with meekness**

Love was poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit - Romans 5:5

##### **Christians will then experience inner peace**

When we practice obedience we experience that peace - Philippians 4:9

## **B. We are to be quick to obey the Word of God - 1:22-25**

### **1. Christians are to be obedient to the Word of God - 1:22**

#### **We are to be doers of the Word**

We do not have the power to obey in our own strength - Romans 7:15-25

The Holy Spirit gives us the power to obey God - Luke 24:49

Those who hear and act are being transformed - 2 Corinthians 3:18

#### **We are not to be hearers only**

We cannot be just before God by hearing only - Romans 2:13

We can only work out what God has already done within - Philippians 2:12-13

We will be blessed as we obey what Christ tells us to do - John 13:17

Some people hear but do not know how to perform what is good - Romans 7:18

#### **The only people hearers deceive is themselves**

Isaiah said hypocrites have hearts far removed from God - Isaiah 29:13

Hypocrites want approval of others for their religious acts - Matthew 6:2

Hypocrites depend on outward appearances - Matt. 23:27

### **2. Some people hear but do not practice - 1:23**

#### **There are people who only hear the Word of God**

Those who hear and do nothing have no foundation - Luke 6:49

Many hear but do not understand - Matthew 13:13

#### **These people do not obey the Word of God**

Those people may even have a seared conscience - 1 Timothy 4:2

#### **These people are like a person looking in a mirror**

They may be depending on their own works - Matthew 7:21-23

### **3. Some people hear and forget - 1:24**

#### **They are like those who see themselves in the mirror**

They look carefully and see only their own efforts - Luke 18:10-11

#### **Then they leave the mirror and go away**

Their consciences cause them to excuse themselves - Romans 2:15

They may even tell others what to do - Matthew 23:4

#### **They immediately forget what they saw**

These people may still be slaves to sin - John 8:34

#### **They forget what kind of a person they are**

Those who are spiritually dead cannot understand - Ephesians 2:1-3

#### **4. Some Christians understand and obey the law of liberty - 1:25**

**There are people who understand the Word is the law of liberty**

Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty - 2 Corinthians 3:17

That liberty gives us the freedom to serve one another in love - Galatians 5:13

**They practice what they learn from the Word**

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul - Psalm 19:7

**They are not forgetful hearers**

They hear and do what Christ says - Luke 6:47-48

**They choose to obey the Lord**

Obedience to righteousness leads to holiness - Romans 6:16-19

Obedience to the Word sets us free - John 8:34-36

**They can look forward to the blessing of the Lord**

Blessed are you if you do them - John 13:17

#### **C. We are to be quick to minister to those in distress - 1:26-27**

##### **1. Some Christians have deceived their own hearts - 1:26**

**There are people who think they are religious**

Even the pagans of Athens were very religious - Acts 17:22

**These are people who do not bridle their tongues**

Such a tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity - James 3:6

**They deceive their own hearts**

Smooth or flattering words deceive the hearts of the simple - Romans 16:18

**They do not realize their religion is useless**

Paul had lived according to the strictest sect of their religion - Acts 26:5

##### **2. Some Christians put the law of liberty into practice - 1:27**

**God defines pure and undefiled religion**

The just shall live by faith - Galatians 3:11

This happens as we walk in the Spirit - Galatians 5:16

This causes our lives to bear the fruit of the Spirit - Galatians 5:22-23

**Pure religion has a concern to visit orphans and widows**

Living by faith will cause us to meet needs of the neglected - Acts 6:1

**Pure religion causes one to keep unspotted from the world**

This happens when we are in Christ, without spot and blameless - 2 Peter 3:14

### **III. James warned of the danger of judging others - 2:1-13**

#### **A. We are to treat all people without favoritism - 2:1-4**

##### **1. We are not to show partiality to the rich - 2:1**

**True faith in our Lord Jesus Christ will change our actions**

We ask the Lord to give us His strength to accept all - Romans 15:7

**True faith in Christ will cause us to avoid partiality**

We ask the Lord to give us His strength to love as He loves - John 13:34-35

##### **2. We are not to treat the rich and poor differently - 2:2-3**

**An outwardly rich person could attend a church service**

To have respect of persons is not good - Proverbs 28:21

**A poor man may also attend a church service**

We are not to be partial to either the poor or the mighty - Leviticus 19:15

**Christians can easily pay attention to a rich person**

The rich often wear expensive clothes - Luke 16:19

**They might set him in the best place**

The scribes wanted the best seats and places - Mark 12:37-39

The Pharisees loved the best seats in the synagogues - Luke 11:43

**Christians showing partiality may do the opposite with a poor man**

We are not to respect persons (small or great) in judgment - Deuteronomy 1:17

**They might make the poor stand or sit on a footstool**

The apostles desired Paul to remember the poor - Galatians 2:10

##### **3. We show by actions when there is partiality in our thoughts - 2:4**

**Those actions show we have partiality in our thoughts**

It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment - Proverbs 24:23

We are not to personally judge one another any more - Romans 14:13

God will judge each person according to his works - 1 Peter 1:17

**Those actions show we have become judges**

We are not to judge another's servant - Romans 14:4

**Those actions show we have evil thoughts**

Evil thoughts come from within the person - Mark 7:21-23

## **B. We are to realize the poor are often rich in faith - 2:5-7**

### **1. The poor often have a strong faith - 2:5**

#### **James asked the other Christians to listen**

James knew he was writing to beloved brethren - James 1:16; 1:19

#### **James said that God is the One who has chosen the poor**

The early Christians gave generously to help the poor - Romans 15:26

Christ became poor to show us His love for us - 2 Corinthians 8:9

The apostles encouraged the care of the poor - Galatians 2:10

#### **God helps the poor grow strong in faith**

The poor may give when they have nothing- Mark 12:43-44

#### **God says that they are heirs of His kingdom**

The poor in spirit will be in the kingdom - Matthew 5:3

We will be joint heirs with Christ for eternity - Romans 8:17

#### **God has promised eternal life to all who love Him**

The Father gave His Son in order to provide eternal life - John 3:16

If anyone loves Me he will keep My commandments - John 14:23

The Father has shown His love by calling us His children - 1 John 3:1

He who loves God must love his brother also - 1 John 4:21

### **2. The poor are often dishonored by others - 2:6**

#### **Those acting with partiality were dishonoring the poor**

God had warned Israel in the wilderness - Ex. 23:6; Lev. 19:14-15

Prayer had been unanswered before for doing this - Zechariah 7:8-10

This was the first recorded problem addressed by the church - Acts 6:1-7

#### **The rich are the ones who take people to court**

This is still very true in many countries today

Christians are to be willing to be wronged - 1 Corinthians 6:7

### **3. The name of Christ is blasphemed - 2:7**

#### **The rich were blaspheming the name of Christ**

Israel was commanded not to oppress the poor - Deuteronomy 24:14

The scribes were guilty of this very sin - Mark 12:38-40

#### **The title "Christians" was given by others (probably to mock)**

The believers were first called Christians in Antioch - Acts 11:26

It is a privilege to suffer for Christ - 1 Peter 4:16

**C. We are to speak and act according to the law of liberty - 2:8-13**

**1. Understanding what Scripture teaches is the royal law - 2:8-10**

**a. The royal law defined - 2:8**

**God is the source of the royal law**

That law was first recorded in the Old Testament - Leviticus 19:18

**The royal law is given in the Scriptures**

That law is given seven more times in the New Testament - Mark 12:31

**The royal law is, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself”**

This speaks of our relationship to other people - Matthew 22:39

This is how we show the love of God is in our hearts - Romans 5:5

This law fulfills the whole law - Galatians 5:14

**b. The royal law violated - 2:9**

**The royal law is violated when a person shows partiality**

There is no partiality with God - Romans 2:11; Acts 10:34

God will judge individuals by their own works - Revelation 20:13

God will reward Christians for all works that are eternal - 1 Cor. 3:10-14

**The royal law when violated makes each person guilty of sin**

This is a summary of the commands toward others - Romans 13:9

**The royal law shows that all are guilty**

We show partiality when we judge others - James 2:4

**The royal law makes all transgressors**

Christians are to grow in faith so that they do not have partiality - Colosians 3:25

**c. The royal law shows every time a person guilty - 2:10**

**A person could try to keep the whole law**

The rich young ruler thought he had kept the whole law - Luke 18:21

We have all fallen far short of keeping the whole law - Romans 3:23

Every person is guilty before God - Romans 3:19-20

All our righteousness are like filthy rags - Isaiah 64:6

**A person might only stumble at one point**

The rich young ruler learned he had stumbled - Luke 18:22-23

**That person is then guilty of all**

A guilty person is a debtor to keep the whole law - Galatians 5:3

## **2. Learning to practice the law of liberty - 2:11-13**

### **a. All laws make people equally guilty - 2:11**

#### **A person might not commit the sin of adultery**

There are many other sins that a person can commit - Romans 1:24-32

#### **A person might be guilty of murder**

Most people have anger in the heart at some time - Matthew 5:21-22

#### **A person does not need to commit every sin to be guilty**

The sin of unbelief is the sin that separates us from God - John 16:9

#### **A person is guilty as soon as he commits one sin**

Eve chose to believe Satan instead of God - Genesis 2:17, 3:1-5

#### **That person has become a transgressor of the law**

The Jews were transgressors though they were circumcised - Romans 2:25-27

### **b. Christians will be judged by the law of liberty - 2:12**

#### **Christians are to teach the law of liberty**

Christ made us free by the law of liberty - Galatians 5:1

#### **Christians are to practice the law of liberty**

We are to continue in the law of liberty - James 1:25

#### **Christians will be judged by the law of liberty**

Christians will stand at the judgment seat of Christ - 2 Corinthians 5:10

Our works that are just for this earth will be burned - 1 Corinthians 3:15

Our works that have eternal value will be rewarded - 1 Corinthians 3:12-14

### **c. Christians will see mercy triumph - 2:13**

#### **Those who show no mercy will be judged**

Unbelievers will be judged by their sinful works - Revelation 20:12-13

Christians are created in Christ for good works - Ephesians 2:10

#### **Those who show no mercy will reap as they sowed**

God shows mercy to both Jews and Gentiles - Romans 11:30-31

Those who sow to the flesh will reap corruption - Galatians 6:7-8

Unbelievers will reap eternal judgment - Revelation 20:15, 21:8

#### **Mercy will have victory over judgment**

God gives us the victory through Christ - 1 Corinthians 15:57-58

The people of God have now obtained mercy - 1 Peter 2:10

We can come boldly to the throne of mercy - Hebrews 4:14-16



#### **IV. James gave an illustration about faith and works - 2:14-26**

##### **A. We are to show our faith by what we do - 2:14-20**

###### **1. Faith without works is not true faith - 2:14**

###### **Many people claim they have faith**

Some people put their faith in the wisdom of men - 1 Corinthians 2:4-5

True faith comes by hearing the Word of God - Romans 10:17

We are saved by grace through faith and not works - Ephesians 2:8-9

When we are saved we are created for good works - Ephesians 2:10

###### **Many give no evidence of true faith by their works**

They may claim their works were in the name of Christ - Matthew 7:22-23

###### **Can their claim of faith save them**

Faith that does not lead to good works is dead - James. 2:26

###### **2. Faith is shown by the way we minister to others - 2:15-16**

###### **We may see a brother or sister lacking clothes**

True faith causes us to see opportunities to do good - Galatians 6:9

###### **We may see a brother or sister lacking food**

This is especially true for a fellow Christian - Galatians 6:10

###### **We may tell them to depart in peace**

We are to be doers of the Word - James 1:22

###### **We may tell them to be warmed and filled**

These are described as the basic necessities - 1 Timothy 6:8

###### **What if we give them nothing for those needs**

We are to be rich in good works, ready to give - 1 Timothy 6:18-19

###### **Do just our words show that we have faith?**

The Philippians shared with Paul in his distress - Philippians 4:14

###### **3. Faith totally lacking works is dead - 2:17**

###### **Those words do not show faith**

Words are easily forgotten when there is no faith - James 1:23-24

###### **Those words must be backed by actions**

We are to be doers of the Word and not just hearers - James 1:22

###### **Otherwise those works are dead**

Christ described the scribes and Pharisees and their dead works - Matthew 23:5

#### **4. James explained how we show our faith - 2:18**

##### **Someone might say, you have faith, and I have works**

Works without faith is dead - Ephesians 2:8-9

A person cannot be justified by the works of the law - Galatians 2:16

A person cannot receive the Spirit by the works of the law - Galatians 3:2

Faith without works is also dead - James 2:26

Abraham had faith working together with his works - James 2:21-22

##### **Someone might say, "Show me your faith without your works"**

A good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit - Matthew 7:17

##### **James said, "I will show you my faith by my works"**

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac - Hebrews 11:17

By faith the harlot Rahab received the spies in peace - Hebrews 11:31

A characteristic of the Thessalonians was their work of faith - 1 Thessalonians 1:3

#### **5. James said that demons can have false faith - 2:19**

##### **You believe there is one God**

However, the only way to come to Him is through Christ - John 14:6

Christ is the door by which we enter into salvation - John 10:9

##### **You do well by believing there is one God**

Then it is possible to serve the living and true God - 1 Thessalonians 1:9

##### **The demons also believe—and tremble**

The demons believe God is real and will judge them - Luke 8:30-31

The demons are reserved for everlasting judgment - Jude 6

#### **6. James said faith that does not bear fruit is dead - 2:20**

##### **James reminded those Jews of what they lacked**

Many Jews sought righteousness by the works of the law - Romans 9:31-32

##### **James called such a person, "O foolish man"**

This was causing them to stumble - Romans 9:33

##### **James told such people that faith without works is dead (useless)**

All Christians are created for good works - Ephesians 2:10

We are to do good works and minister to all people - Galatians 6:10

We are even to do good to those who hate us - Matthew 5:44

The Holy Spirit gives all Christians love to do good works - Romans 5:5

The Holy Spirit has given all Christians power to do good works - Acts 1:8

Christians will have their good works rewarded - 1 Corinthians 3:12-14

**B. People showed faith by what they did when God changed them - 2:21-26**

**1. Abraham showed by what he did after God called him - 2:21-24**

**a. Abraham showed his faith when he offered Isaac - 2:21**

**Was Abraham justified by works?**

Abraham was called by God to leave Ur and he went to Haran - Genesis 11:31

Abraham then left the city of Haran when he was 75 years old - Genesis 12:4

**He offered his son Isaac as a sacrifice**

Abraham was 10 years older than Sarah - Genesis 17:17

Isaac was born when Abraham was 100 years old - Genesis 21:5

Abraham was tested by God to offer Isaac as a sacrifice - Genesis 22:1-2

By faith Abraham prepared to offer Isaac as a sacrifice - Hebrews 11:17-19

Sarah later died when she was 127 years old - Genesis 23:1

**b. Abraham showed that true faith and works go together - 2:22**

**This shows how faith and works work together**

It is very clear that this work came many years after that faith - Genesis 12:7

All who have true faith in God will show faith by works - Ephesians 2:10

**Faith is brought to maturity by the works it produces**

Christ spoke about the maturity of the works of Abraham - John 8:39

Obedience to the Word of God brings us to maturity - 2 Timothy 3:16-17

**c. Abraham was called the friend of God because of faith - 2:23**

**This fulfilled of the Scripture about Abraham**

Abraham believed God and it was accounted as righteousness - Genesis 15:6

**Abraham believed God because of his faith**

God saved us by His mercy and not our righteousness - Titus 3:5

The one who practices righteousness is righteous - 1 John 3:7

**Abraham had that put to his account as righteousness**

God put righteousness to the account of Abraham - Genesis 15:6

This was many years before God tested him with Isaac - Genesis 21:1-2

**Abraham was called a friend of God**

Abraham had been an idol worshiper when God called him - Joshua 24:2

Abraham walked by faith for more than 100 years - Genesis 12:1-4, 25:7

God called Abraham His friend - 2 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8

**d. Abraham showed that true faith results in works - 2:24**

**God rewards the works of righteousness of believers**

This is the result of building on the right foundation - 1 Corinthians 3:11-14

**God gives rewards as a result of faith that produces works**

Abraham, by faith, obeyed when he was called - Hebrews 11:8

Abraham, by faith, lived in tents the rest of his life - Hebrews 11:9

We will also receive a reward if we serve the Lord Christ - Colossians 3:24

Our reward will be great if we love our enemies - Luke 6:35

The Lord will reward each according to his own labor - 1 Corinthians 3:8

**2. Rahab showed her faith by hiding the spies of Israel - 2:25-26**

**a. Rahab showed her faith when the messengers came - 2:25**

**Rahab was a harlot (prostitute)**

Rahab hid the two messengers from the king - Joshua 2:2-4

**Rahab was rewarded for her works when she showed faith**

Rahab showed faith by hiding the messengers - Joshua 2:12-14

Rahab saw the Lord spare her entire family - Joshua 6:22-23

**Rahab received the messengers that came from Israel**

They lodged in the house of Rahab - Joshua 2:1

Rahab let them down through her window in the wall - Joshua 2:15

Rahab then put a scarlet rope in her window - Joshua 2:21

**Rahab sent them out another way**

Rahab told them how to escape - Joshua 2:15-16

Rahab was rewarded for her faith - Hebrews 11:31

**b. Rahab illustrated what true faith does - 2:26**

**The body without the spirit is dead**

We were spiritually dead in trespasses and sins - Ephesians 2:1-3

God gave us spiritual life and a heavenly position - Ephesians 2:4-6

God poured out His love on us by the Holy Spirit - Romans 5:5

**Faith without works is dead also**

We were created in Christ Jesus for good works - Ephesians 2:10

We are not to grieve the Holy Spirit by sins - Ephesians 4:30-31

We let our light shine so others see our good works - Matthew 5:16

All works that endure will be rewarded - 1 Corinthians 3:14

## V. James explained wrong and right uses of the tongue - 3:1-18

### A. We are to control our tongues - 3:1-4

#### 1. Teachers will receive a stricter judgment - 3:1

##### **James gave a caution to those who wanted to be teachers**

There were many false teachers among the circumcision (Jews) - Titus 1:10

False teachers can be recognized by their fruit - Matthew 7:15-20

Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks - Matthew 12:34

##### **James said that teachers will receive a stricter judgment**

False teachers will experience eternal judgment - Matthew 7:21-23

#### 2. Teachers are to be examples by the way they speak - 3:2

##### **We can all stumble in many things**

Immature Christians are tossed to and fro - Ephesians 4:14

##### **A person that does not stumble by what he says is mature**

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings good - Luke 6:45

We are to help all Christians grow to maturity - Ephesians 4:13

We want all to become mature and complete - Colossians 4:12

##### **He is able to bridle the rest of his body as well**

The heart of the wise teaches his mouth - Proverbs 16:23

#### 3. Teachers are given illustrations of how to control the tongue - 3:3-4

##### **We place bits in the mouths of horses**

We are not to be like the horse or the mule - Psalm 32:9

##### **The bits cause the horses to obey us**

When a person pulls one rein, the horse turns that direction

##### **We are able to turn their whole bodies with the bit**

The bit is held in place in the mouth by the bridle - Psalm 32:9

A godly person must learn to bridle his tongue - James 1:26

##### **Ships could be large in that day**

Paul was on a ship with 276 people plus cargo - Acts 27:37

##### **Large ships are still driven by fierce winds**

Paul experienced this on his trip to Rome - Acts 27:16-20

##### **Large ships are turned with just a small rudder**

Rudders can be held with ropes or turned by hands - Acts 27:40

**B. We can create great problems with our tongue - 3:5-12**

**1. The tongue can cause great conflicts - 3:5-8**

**a. The tongue is small but can boast great things - 3:5**

**The tongue is a small part of our body**  
A tongue can be like the piercings of a sword - Proverbs 12:18  
**The tongue can boast about many great things**  
You boast in your arrogance (pride) - James 4:16  
**A small fire can set a whole forest on fire**  
The mountain burned with fire - Deuteronomy 4:11

**b. The tongue can start many conflicts - 3:6**

**The tongue defiles the whole body**  
Our of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks - Matthew 12:34  
What comes out of the mouth defiles a man - Mark 7:20  
**The tongue can set on fire the course of nature**  
One sentence of Ishbosheth had a major impact in Israel - 2 Samuel 3:7-10  
An ungodly man digs up evil and it is like a burning fire - Proverbs 16:27  
**The tongue is set on fire by hell (Gehenna)**  
(Gehenna was the Jerusalem city dump and burned continually)  
Where there is no talebearer, strife ceases - Proverbs 26:20

**c. The tongue of many cannot be tamed - 3:7-8**

**There are many different kinds of animals and birds**  
God formed every beast and every bird and Adam named them - Genesis 2:19  
**There are many different kinds of reptiles and sea creatures**  
God created great sea creatures and every living thing - Genesis 1:21  
**These many different creatures can be tamed**  
The fear in animals makes it possible to tame them - Genesis 9:2  
**No man is able to tame the tongue**  
One who does not bridle his tongue deceives his heart - James 1:26  
**The tongue is an unruly evil**  
We are to keep our tongue from speaking evil - 1 Peter 3:10  
**The tongue is full of deadly poison**  
The Holy Spirit gives power to put away evil speaking - Ephesians 4:30-31

## 2. The tongue shows what is in the heart - 3:9-12

### a. Some bless God with their tongues while cursing other people - 2:9

#### **Many people can bless God with their tongue**

The Jews often blessed God when they spoke - Psalm 68:35

True blessing of God was done by the apostles - Luke 24:53

#### **Many people at the same time curse other people**

Peter began to curse and swear when questioned - Matthew 26:74

The world has mouths filled with cursing and bitterness - Romans 3:14

#### **Those people have all been made in the image of God**

We are all made in the image of God - Genesis 1:26

God gave man the opportunity to be either blessed or cursed - Deut. 11:26

We can experience the blessing of God - Matthew 5:3-12

The end of the unbeliever is to be cursed and burned - Hebrews 6:6-8

### b. Such people do not realize what they are doing is wrong - 3:10

#### **Blessing and cursing are coming out of the same mouth**

We are to bless and curse not - Romans 12:14

We are to bless those who curse us - Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:28

#### **James said that to do both is not right for brethren**

We are to leave all vengeance to the Lord - Romans 12:19

### c. Two illustrations that show why such things are evil - 3:11-12

#### **A spring does not give fresh and bitter water from the same opening**

Christ in us is a well of water springing up into everlasting life - John 4:14

We are warned about the danger of a root of bitterness - Hebrews 12:15-17

#### **A fig tree cannot bear olives**

Both a physical tree and a spiritual life is known by its fruit - Matthew 7:15-20

#### **A grapevine cannot bear figs**

Every tree is known by its own fruit - Luke 6:44

We cannot bear good fruit in our own strength - John 15:4

When we abide in Christ we can bear much fruit - John 15:5

#### **A spring of water cannot give both salt water and fresh**

The Dead Sea is dead because it has a very high content of salt

Christ offered the woman at the well living water - John 4:10

Christ said that out of believers hearts will flow living water - John 7:38

## **C. We are to speak with godly wisdom - 3:13-18**

### **1. The invitation to speak with godly wisdom - 3:13-16**

#### **a. A wise person shows his godly wisdom by his actions - 3:13**

**A wise and understanding person is described**

**A wise person will show it by his conduct (actions)**

A wise person will be obedient to the Word of God - James 1:22

We will have honorable conduct among non-Christians - 1 Peter 2:12

**A wise person will do what he does in meekness**

A wise person exercises self-control under the power of the Spirit - Gal. 5:22-23

#### **b. An unwise person reveals his heart by his worldly wisdom - 3:14**

**An unwise person may be controlled by bitter envy**

Esau was controlled by a root of bitterness - Hebrews 12:14-17

**An unwise person may be controlled by self-seeking**

Let nothing be done through self ambition of conceit - Philippians 2:3

Those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth face judgment - Romans 2:8

**Bitter envy and self-seeking both come from the heart**

These actions come from those who have not repented - 2 Corinthians 12:20-21

**Such a person will lie and boast against the truth**

Many Jews were boasting in God but did not obey Him - Romans 2:17-25

#### **c. This unwise wisdom has its source in Satan - 3:15-16**

**This wisdom does not come from above**

We must ask of God to gain godly wisdom - James 1:5

**This wisdom is earthly**

Those who set their minds on earthly things - Philippians 3:18-19

**This wisdom is sensual**

These are worldly-minded lacking the Holy Spirit - Jude 19

**This wisdom is demonic**

Earthly wisdom has its source in Satan - 2 Corinthians 11:14-15

**These are the result of envy and self-seeking**

These are the result of being double-minded - James 1:6-8

**These will produce confusion and every evil work**

This can even happen with carnal Christians - 1 Corinthians 3:3



## 2. True wisdom will make us peacemakers - 3:17-18

### a. True wisdom comes from above - 3:17

#### **The description of the wisdom from above**

This wisdom is totally different than worldly wisdom - James 3:13-16

#### **The wisdom from above is first pure**

We are to think on the things that are pure - Philippians 4:8

We are to purify ourselves - 1 John 3:3

We are to keep our conduct pure - 1 Peter 3:2

We are to keep our own lives pure - 1 Timothy 5:22

#### **The wisdom from above is peaceable**

Godly discipline yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness - Hebrews 12:11

#### **The wisdom from above is gentle**

We are to let our gentleness be known to all people - Philippians 4:5

We are to be gentle both to the gentle and the harsh - 1 Peter 2:18

#### **The wisdom from above is willing to yield**

We are to be willing to yield to God in all things - 1 Peter 1:14

#### **The wisdom from above is full of mercy**

That is the way Christ shows His mercy to us - Hebrews 4:15-16

#### **The wisdom from above is full of good fruits**

We are to be filled with the fruits of righteousness - Philippians 1:11

We bring glory to God by bearing much fruit - John 15:8

#### **The wisdom from above is without partiality**

True wisdom does not have partiality - James 2:1

#### **The wisdom from above is without hypocrisy**

We are to let our love be without hypocrisy - Romans 12:9

We are to love one another fervently with a pure heart - 1 Peter 1:22

### b. True wisdom produces a fruitful life - 3:18

#### **The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace**

He who sows righteousness will have a sure reward - Proverbs 11:18

He who sows to the Spirit has everlasting life - Galatians 6:8

#### **That fruit is sown by those who are peacemakers**

Christ is our peace who has made both one - Ephesians 2:14-15

Christ made peace through the blood of His cross - Colossians 1:20

Christ has given us the ministry of reconciliation - 2 Corinthians 5:18

We are to pursue the things that make for peace - Romans 14:19

## **VI. James warned against following the pattern of the world - 4:1-17**

### **A. We are to recognize the source of conflicts - 4:1-2**

#### **1. Conflicts come from sinful inner desires - 4:1**

##### **Where do wars and fights come from among you?**

These can be conflicts among professing Christians - Matthew 7:21-23

These can be conflicts among carnal Christians - 1 Corinthians 3:1-3

##### **Do they not come from your desires for pleasure?**

Among non-Christians they serve the pleasures of this life - Luke 8:14

Among Christians, this is the result of spiritual immaturity - Ephesians. 4:14

##### **These desires cause wars within a person**

Unbelievers have evil thought and desires continually - Genesis 6:5

Carnal Christians cannot do what is right - Romans 7:20

#### **2. Conflicts cause many different sins - 4:2**

##### **You lust and do not have**

We served these lust and pleasures before becoming Christians - Titus 3:3-5

We did this because we were dead in trespasses and sins - Ephesians 2:1-3

As carnal Christians, we can be double-minded and unstable - James 1:6-8

This person may be spiritually shortsighted - 2 Peter 1:9

##### **You murder and covet and cannot obtain**

This is the result of anger in the heart - Matthew 5:22

Christians are to put off these things - Ephesians 4:31-32

##### **You fight and war**

Christians are to stop fighting - 2 Timothy 2:24

### **B. We are to realize the consequences of our attitudes - 4:3-6**

#### **1. Conflicts are often the result of personal attitudes - 4:3**

##### **You ask and do not receive**

A double-minded person may have doubts - James 1:5-8

##### **You ask for the wrong reasons**

The Lord does not hear when we have sin in our hearts - Psalm 66:18

##### **You ask to satisfy your own desires**

James and John had such wrong desires - Mark 10:35, 41

## 2. Conflicts produce wrong attitudes toward God - 4:4

### **Adulterers and adulteresses**

**(This can include either physical or spiritual adultery)**

A person who has lust in the heart is guilty - Matthew 5:27-28

Christians are to abstain from sexual immorality - Acts 15:28-29

Christians are to flee from sexual immorality - 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Spiritual adultery is a strong desire for the evil of the world - Matthew 16:4

### **Friendship with the world is enmity with God**

John describes what is meant by the world - 1 John 2:15-16

At salvation, the Spirit pours the love of God in our hearts - Romans 5:5

The love of God in our hearts makes us His children - 1 John 3:1

### **A person may be a friend of the world**

A friend of the world speaks of having the lusts of the world - 1 John 2:16

### **A friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God**

The natural man sees the things of God as foolishness - 1 Corinthians 2:14

The natural man seeks wisdom that is earthly, sensual and demonic - James 3:15

## 3. God changes our attitudes as we humble ourselves before Him - 4:5-6

### **All Scripture has a purpose**

All Scripture is given by God and is profitable - 2 Tim. 3:16-17

### **The Holy Spirit has no agreement with the world**

Our bodies are the temple of God - 1 Corinthians 6:19

The temple of God has no agreement with the world - 2 Corinthians 6:16

### **God gives us more grace**

Grace was given to us according to Christ's gift - Ephesians 4:7

It is a good thing for our hearts to be established by grace - Hebrews 13:9

We are to continue to grow in grace - 2 Peter 3:18

### **God resists the proud**

The proud do not even want to think about God - Romans 1:28-32

The one who exalts himself will be humbled - Matthew 23:12

God resists the proud - 1 Peter 5:5

God scatters the proud in the imagination of their hearts - Luke 1:51

### **God gives grace to the humble**

God has chosen to exalt the lowly - Luke 1:52

Christ is our example of what gentle and lowly in heart means - Matthew 11:29

God gives grace to the lowly (KJV) - Proverbs 3:34

Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation - James 1:9

## **C. We are given ten commands that will change our attitudes - 4:7-10**

### **1. Submit to God**

Be in subjection to the Father of spirits - Hebrews 12:9  
Angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him - 1 Pet. 3:22

### **2. Resist the devil and he will flee from you**

Resist him, steadfast in the faith - 1 Peter 5:9  
Christ showed that we resist Satan by quoting the Scriptures - Matthew 4:1-11

### **3. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you**

We have a better hope, through which we draw near to God - Hebrews 7:19  
Return (draw near) to me, and I will return to you - Malachi 3:7

### **4. Cleanse your hands, you sinners**

The blood of Christ...cleanses our conscience from dead works - Hebrews 9:14  
The Lord cleanses us from all unrighteousness - 1 John 1:9

### **5. Purify your hearts, you double-minded**

When we understand our hope in Christ, we purify ourselves - 1 John 3:3  
We purify our souls by obeying the truth through the Spirit - 1 Peter 1:22

### **6. Lament (to be broken by our sin)**

This is godly sorrow that leads to repentance - 2 Corinthians. 7:9-10

### **7. Mourn**

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted - Matthew 5:4

### **8. Weep (to show inner sorrow)**

Weeping to show our inner sorrow for our sin - Mark 14:72  
Paul wept for those who had not yet come to Christ - Philippians 3:18

### **9. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom**

This is the laughter that goes with the passing pleasures of sin - Heb. 11:25  
There will be no more mourning in eternity - Revelation 21:4

### **10. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up**

Christ humbled Himself, and was obedient to the cross - Philippians 2:8  
When we humble ourselves, God will exalt us in due time - 1 Peter 5:6

**D. We are to see the characteristics of the way the world thinks - 4:11-17**

**1. God says we are not to speak evil of one another - 4:11-12**

**a. We are not to judge one another - 4:11**

**We are not to speak evil of one another**  
We are to lay aside evil speaking - 1 Peter 2:1  
**When we speak evil we have judged that person**  
God is able to make any person stand - Romans 14:4  
We can warn a person but not shame him - 1 Corinthians 4:14  
**We have also spoken evil of the law and judged the law**  
We are not to judge one another any more - Romans 14:13  
**When we judge the law we fail to obey it**  
We are to be a doer of the law and not just a hearer - James 1:22

**b. We are to realize God is the Lawgiver - 4:12**

**There is one Lawgiver who is able to save**  
The Lord is able to save to the uttermost - Hebrews 7:25  
**There is one Lawgiver who is able to destroy**  
We are to fear the One who has power to cast into hell - Matthew 10:28  
The word Christ has spoken will be the judge in the last day - John 12:48  
**That is why we are not to judge**  
The law hears a man before it judges him - John 7:51  
We would be judging another's servant - Romans 14:4

**2. God says we only do things as God gives us life - 4:13-17**

**a. We often plan without asking God - 4:13**

**We need to think about the way we talk**  
We are to be quick to hear and slow to speak - James 1:19  
We need to think and say, "If the Lord wills..." - James 4:15  
**We often make plans without asking God**  
This was what the rich man did as he looked at his crops - Luke 12:16-19  
**This includes our plans and our goals**  
The rich man was a fool and left God out of his thinking - Luke 12:20-21  
A fool is one who acts as if there is no God - Psalm 14:1

**b. We need to know our life is like a vapor - 4:14**

**We do not know what will happen tomorrow**

We have no idea what will happen tomorrow - Matthew 6:34

**We do not know if we will be alive tomorrow**

The Lord may take a person's life tonight - Luke 12:20

**Our life is like a vapor that is seen for a little while**

The vapor of smoke can only be seen for a little while - Acts 2:19

**Our life, like the vapor, will soon vanish away**

Even a person in ideal health is like a vapor - Psalm 39:5

Our lives are like the grass that dies quickly - Isaiah 40:6-8

**c. We need to know God is the One who makes things possible - 4:15**

**We need to recognize that God controls the length of our life**

God knows when our life will come to an end - James 1:10

**We need to recognize that He is the One who has the control**

Paul said he would return if the Lord was willing - Acts 18:21

**God is the One who wills and gives us life to do what we do**

The Father created us in the image of Christ to do good works - Ephesians 2:10

We are to look for opportunities to do good to all - Galatians 6:10

**d. We are not to boast about ourselves - 4:16**

**We are not to boast because of our pride**

Pride causes a person to become puffed up - 1 Timothy 3:6

This can even happen to whole churches - 1 Corinthians 5: 2-6

**All such boasting is evil**

This pride of life is not of the Father - 1 John 2:16

**e. We are to look for opportunities to do good - 4:17**

**This talks about a person who knows what is right**

This is a person who has known what is right - 2 Peter 2:21

The scribes did not do what they taught others to do - Matthew 23:3

**That person fails to do what is right**

A person becomes accountable for what he knows is right - Luke 12:47

**That person is guilty of sin**

Jesus told some Pharisees that they claimed to know what was right - John 9:41

## **VII. James gave a warning to those depending on riches - 5:1-6**

### **A. The warning about the danger of riches - 5:1-3**

#### **1. The rich were warned about the future - 5:1**

##### **Those who depend on riches fall into temptation**

The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil - 1 Timothy 6:10

They are having their consolation in this life - Luke 6:24

##### **They need to think about the future and not just the present**

The rich man only planned for this life - Luke 12:20

He did not lay up treasures in heaven - Matthew 6:20

They will be punished when they die - Luke 16:19, 22-23

##### **They need to realize that judgment will come one day**

That judgment is the great white throne judgment - Revelation 20:11-15

#### **2. The rich were told that their riches were corrupted - 5:2**

##### **Their riches are corrupted**

We cannot be redeemed with corruptible things - 1 Peter 1:18

He who sows to the flesh will reap corruption - Galatians 6:8

“Evil company corrupts good habits.” - 1 Corinthians 15:33

##### **Their rich clothes are eaten by moths**

The moth is able to destroy the clothes of the rich - Matthew 6:19

#### **3. The rich lived like they would live forever - 5:3**

##### **Their gold and silver are corroded**

Rust and corrosion destroy many metals - Matthew 6:19

##### **That corrosion will be a witness against them**

Riches gained through sin help a person become a fool - Jeremiah 17:11

##### **That corrosion will eat their flesh like fire**

We are not to trust in uncertain riches - 1 Timothy 6:17

It is hard for those with riches to enter the kingdom of God - Luke 18:23-25

Most will experience the eternal fire of judgment - Revelation 21:8

##### **They have stored up their treasure in the last days**

(The last days are the time between the first and second coming)

In the last days people will be lovers of money - 2 Timothy 3:1-2

In the last days there will be many scoffers - 2 Peter 3:3

## **B. The warning about the danger of living to satisfy self - 5:4-6**

### **1. The rich were told they used fraud to gain riches - 5:4**

#### **They have laborers who have done their work**

Israel was to pay their laborers each day - Deuteronomy 24:14-15

#### **They have kept back their wages by fraud**

This was a direct violation of the Old Testament - Leviticus 19:13

Masters were to give what was right and just - Colossians 4:1

#### **This causes their laborers to cry out**

Their laborers will cry out to the Lord - Deuteronomy 19:14-15

#### **The cries of the laborers are heard by the Lord of Hosts**

God said the oppressed would bring a cry for help - Isaiah 5:7

The Lord of Hosts will make the houses of the rich desolate - Isaiah 5:9

### **2. The rich lived a life of pleasure and luxury - 5:5**

#### **The rich have lived on the earth in pleasure**

Many want to spend riches on their pleasures - James 4:3

Before Christ we served various lusts and pleasures - Titus 3:3

Many are lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God - 2 Timothy 3:4

Moses chose to suffer rather than temporary pleasures - Hebrews 11:24-26

#### **The rich have lived in luxury**

They bought houses and lands with their riches - Isaiah 5:8

They will receive the wages of unrighteousness - 2 Peter 2:13

#### **The rich have fattened their hearts**

Many have bitter envy and self-seeking in their hearts - James 3:14

#### **They are actually prepared for the day of slaughter**

On that day, each will be judged for their own works - Rev. 20:11-15

### **3. The rich would even kill to gain more riches - 5:6**

#### **They have condemned the just**

The Jewish leaders condemned Christ to fulfill their plans - John 11:45-50

Christ suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust - 1 Peter 3:18

#### **They have killed those that they condemned**

The Jewish leaders murdered Christ to fulfill their plans - John 19:14-16

#### **The just have not resisted the rich**

Christ was led as a Lamb to the slaughter - Isaiah 53:7



## **VIII. James explained how to minister to others - 5:7-20**

### **A. We are to be patient as we live on this earth - 5:7-8**

#### **1. We are to learn to live with patience - 5:7**

##### **We are to be patient until the coming of the Lord**

We will be in the presence of the Lord at His coming - 1 Thessalonians 2:19  
The Lord will take all Christians to heaven at His coming - 1 Thessalonians 4:15  
Some were teaching the Thessalonians had missed His coming - 2 Thess. 2:1-2

##### **The farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth**

We are to wait with patience for the precious promises - 2 Peter 1:4

##### **The farmer waits patiently while the crop develops**

The Lord showed this patience by being patient with us - 2 Peter 3:9

##### **The farmer waits for the early and later rain**

The early rain comes in the fall and the late rain in the spring (in Israel)

We do good because in due season we shall reap - Galatians 6:9

#### **2. We are to look for the coming of the Lord - 5:8**

##### **We are also to be patient**

We are to be patient with all - 1 Thessalonians 5:14  
We are not to return evil for evil - 1 Thessalonians 5:15

##### **We are to establish our hearts**

Christ wants to establish us in every good work - 2 Thessalonians 2:17

##### **The coming of the Lord is at hand**

Christ will establish our hearts blameless in holiness - 1 Thess. 3:13

### **B. We are to follow the example set by the prophets as we live - 5:9-12**

#### **1. We are not to complain about one another - 5:9**

##### **We are not to grumble against one another**

Even we ourselves groan within ourselves - Romans 8:23  
Leaders want to give an account with joy and not grief - Hebrews 13:17

##### **We may condemn ourselves by our grumbling**

Many do not know their true condition - Revelation 3:17-18

##### **The Judge is standing at the door**

Many have pushed Christ right out of their lives - Rev. 3:20

## 2. We are to look at the patience of the prophets - 5:10

**James told the brethren to look at some examples**

Moses endured as seeing Him who is invisible - Hebrews 11:27

**James said the prophets spoke in the name of the Lord**

*Thus says the Lord* is repeated many times - Isaiah 10:24; Jeremiah 2:2

**The prophets gave an example of suffering**

This suffering included stoning and sawing in two - Hebrews 11:37

**The prophets gave an example of patience**

Jeremiah recognized God's enduring patience - Jeremiah 15:15-16

## 3. We are to look at the patience of Job - 5:11

**We count as blessed those who endure**

The person is blessed who endures temptation - James 1:12

**Job is an example of patient endurance**

Job waited for the Lord to rebuke his friends - Job 42:8

**Job had seen the end intended by the Lord**

Job knew that he would see his Redeemer - Job 19:25-27

**Job saw that the Lord is very compassionate**

The Lord is full of compassion - Psalm 86:15

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion - Psalm 145:8

**Job saw that the Lord is very merciful**

The Lord is merciful and gracious - Psalm 103:8-12

His mercies are why we are not consumed - Lamentations 3:22

## 4. We are not to make false promises - 5:12

**James told the brethren something extremely important**

We are to perform our oaths as unto the Lord - Matthew 5:33

**We are not to swear by heaven**

He swears by the throne of God and Him who sits on it - Matthew 23:22

**We are not to swear by the earth**

The earth is the footstool of God - Matthew 5:34-35

**We are not to swear by any other thing**

The Lord is the Creator of every created thing - John 1:3

**We are to be people who say "Yes" and do it**

**We are to be people who say "No" and avoid it**

Anything more than these is from the evil one - Matthew 5:37

## **C. We are to pray for those who suffer - 5:13-15**

### **1. The way we are to respond - 5:13**

#### **Is anyone among you suffering**

The Lord is able to strengthen our hearts as we pray - Psalm 27:13-14

#### **If we are suffering, we are to pray**

We are to bring our requests to the Lord with thanksgiving - Philippians 4:6

We are to bring our cares to the Lord - Matthew 11:28-30; 1 Peter 5:7

#### **Is anyone among you cheerful**

Christ can give us strength to count it all joy even in trials - James 1:2

#### **If we are cheerful, we are to sing psalms**

Paul and Silas sang hymns even though they had been beaten - Acts 16:25

### **2. Instructions about the way to pray for the sick - 5:14**

#### **Is anyone among you sick**

Christ healed many that were sick - Luke 4:40

One of the fellow workers of Paul was sick - Philippians 2:25-30

#### **Let him call for the elders of the church**

The elders are the spiritual leadership team in a church - Acts 14:23

#### **Let them pray over him**

This team brings glory to God instead of a man - 1 Peter 4:10-11

#### **Let them anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord**

The twelve anointed many with oil that were sick - Mark 6:13

Oil was used in the Old Testament to talk about the Holy Spirit - Zech. 4:3-6

### **3. The response of the Lord to such prayers - 5:15**

#### **The prayer of faith will save the sick**

This word can talk about physical healing - Mark 5:28

In the New Testament, this word is used more often for salvation - Romans 10:9

#### **The Lord will raise that person up**

The Lord chooses how He will answer our prayers - 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

#### **The Lord will do this even if he has committed sins**

Some are sick or blind to bring glory to God - John 9:3; Acts 3:1-7

Some Christians are sick because they have committed sins - 1 Cor. 11:29-31

#### **The Lord will forgive those sins**

The Lord both forgives and cleanses Christians - 1 John 1:7-9

## **D. We are to realize the power of prayer - 5:16-18**

### **1. We are to pray with those who are struggling with sin - 5:16**

#### **When struggling, we are to confess our trespasses to one another**

Our faults (trespasses) are sins that are defeating us - Galatians 6:1  
Christians will struggle when they depend on themselves - Romans 7:15-25  
Christians will experience victory as they yield to God - Romans 6:13, 16, 19  
The Holy Spirit gives us power to be more than conquerors - Romans 8:37

#### **We are also to pray for one another**

Paul continually prayed for other Christians - Eph. 3:14-19; 1 Thess. 1:2-4  
We are to hold up Christians lacking strength - I Thessalonians 5:14

#### **We will see the Lord give victory over those sins**

God is able to make the person stand - Romans 14:4

#### **God hears the effective fervent prayer of a righteous man**

A righteous man is one who walks with integrity - Proverbs 20:7  
A righteous man may fall seven times and rise again - Proverbs 24:16

#### **God says such prayers have strength to overcome**

A righteous man can have confidence that God will hear - Proverbs 15:29  
A righteous man knows God will answer according to His will - 1 John 5:14-15

### **2. Elijah is an example of one who prayed earnestly - 5:17**

#### **Elijah was a man with a nature like ours**

Elijah became fearful just like we do - 1 Kings 19:1-3  
Elijah even became suicidal - 1 Kings 19:4

#### **Elijah prayed earnestly that it would not rain**

Elijah told Ahab what he had prayed - 1 Kings 17:1

#### **God stopped the rain for three years and six months**

This caused a great famine in the entire land - Luke 4:25

### **3. Elijah received answers when he prayed - 5:18**

#### **Elijah then prayed again**

Elijah prayed for rain on the top of Mount Carmel - 1 Kings 18:42

#### **God answered by giving rain from heaven**

This prayer was answered very quickly - 1 Kings 18:41-45

#### **God caused the earth to begin producing fruit again**

God sent both the early and latter rains - James 5:7

## **E. We are to recognize those who stray from the truth - 5:19-20**

### **1. We are to turn back those who wander - 5:19**

#### **People who are Christians can wander from the truth**

Those who are not Christians still love the darkness - John 3:19

Those who are Christians want to do what is good - Romans 7:19-20

Spiritual children can still be deceived - 1 John 3:7

Spiritually immature Christians can still act like the world - 1 Corinthians 3:1-3

Spiritually immature Christians can be tossed to and fro - Ephesians 4:14

Spiritually immature Christians can become dull of hearing - Hebrews 5:11-14

#### **We are to turn such Christians back to the truth**

Our goal should always be to restore such a brother - Galatians 6:1

Love will cause us to work toward restoration - 2 Corinthians 6:11

Love will lead true believers to godly sorrow - 2 Corinthians 7:9-10

### **2. We are to set them free from their bondage - 5:20**

#### **God wants us to know we can help such a person**

God can use us to warn the unruly - 1 Thessalonians 5:14

God can use us to hold up the weak (strengthless) - 1 Thessalonians 5:14

#### **God can use us to help the person see the error of his way**

God can use us to help a sinning brother - Matthew 18:15

They are chastened by the Lord so they will not be condemned with the world -

1 Corinthians 11:32

#### **Such a ministry will save a soul from death**

A Christian may experience physical death because of sin - 1 Cor. 11:28-30

A Christian can be experiencing a mental and emotional death - Romans 7:24

Christ said, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death..." - Mark 14:34

James said, "Cleanse your hands you sinners..." - James 4:8

#### **Such a ministry will cover a multitude of sins**

Hatred stirs up strife but love covers all sins - Proverbs 10:12

Above all things have fervent love for one another - 1 Peter 4:8

For "...love will cover a multitude of sins." - 1 Peter 4:8

## **James 1:22**

**"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."**