

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."