

"Living Faith: A Journey Through the Book of James"



There is a great deal of information that we can learn from the book of James and a lot of details are often missed. Sadly, many discredit the book of James. James goes against a lot of the false teaching in this world today. One of the main teachings many struggle with is that he states we can't live by faith only.

The book of James is believed to be written around the time of 50-62 A.D., to the Christians who were recently Jews. James focuses heavily on faith and works to be pleasing to God. The book of James also deals heavily in trials, and dealing with these trials as a new Christian. We will endure many trials, tribulations, and sufferings through our Christian walk, and it is important to know how to respond to these trials.

The primary objective of this workbook is to facilitate a comprehensive exploration of the book of James, providing a structured guide for Bible study. Through a thoughtful examination of the text, this workbook aims to enhance your understanding of the book of James. It is designed to foster a more profound engagement with the Bible, elevating the level of your Bible study experience.

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Written to

This actually is one of the most debated topics about the book of James. Some believe that it was written to Jews, and some believe it is written to Christians.

James 1:1 KJV

*James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, **to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad**, greeting.*

Here the writer states “to the twelve tribes scattered abroad”. People take this verse and assume right away that he is speaking to Jews, trying to convert them.

This can't be the case.

James is writing to Christians who needed daily encouragement and up lifting. Let us examine the evidence thoroughly.

We see James refers to the people he is writing to as brethren 12 times. Would it be right for James to call all Jews, brethren? No, of course not. They are not in the body of Christ! Jews are not Christians, therefore they are not brethren.

James 2:1 KJV My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

He tells them to not hold the faith of Christ with partiality or respect of persons.

Did the Jews as a whole follow Christ, and did they all believe that Christ was the savior?

The book is written to Christians who were of the twelve sons of Israel, who had been scattered abroad by heavy persecution. Hence the talk of trials.

Read Acts 8:1, what was happening to the Christians at that time?

Because of the great persecution, this would cause many trials for Christians. James wants to make sure that the people are armed to fight spiritually, because we are a spiritual people.

James 1:25 KJV

But whoso looketh into the perfect law of _____, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Using a concordance, what is the meaning of "*liberty*" in the Greek?

Notice James didn't call it the law of Moses, instead he calls it the perfect law of liberty!

Read Hebrews 7:19 and explain what the Hebrew writer states about the old law.

Now, these 12 tribes (or new christians) could be made perfect by the perfect law of liberty which was not possible before because of what the law of Moses lacked.

Read Hebrews 10:1-4

Here the Hebrew writer is talking about the forgiveness of sins.

Read Hebrews 9:11-15 and explain what the old law did not have that the new law does have.

Therefore the covenant of Christ was necessary to bring men all the way to God Himself.

Romans 7:4 KJV

Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

Notice the part about being married to Christ and stepping out on Him. That is referencing Christians who step away to go to any other "religion" are actually committing spiritual adultery! Also, Christ nailed that old law to the cross.

Notice how he makes reference to bearing fruit. Brothers and sisters, bearing fruit is found in only one place. The New Testament Law of Christ! No where else.

Why? The old law is dead.

Can you get fruit from a dead tree? _____

You can't keep two laws at the same time. Hence why James is 100% with out a doubt writing to Christians on spiritual living, not "Jews" on spiritual living. They can't spiritually live under the old law! Why? Because its old!

The old law was Holy, Just, and Godly because Christ kept it. But Christ's law is so much better according to the Hebrew writer!

Chapter 1

Verse 1

James 1:1 KJV

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

James starts out by calling himself a servant or slave to God and Christ. One born into slavery through baptism, meaning James is a Christian.

Using a concordance, look up the definition in the Greek for the word “servant” and write it below.

Read Jude 1:1, what does Jude call himself as well? _____

Another point we can make here is that James is stating that God and Christ are on the same level of Deity. Many love to fight this point trying to disprove the Bible. They attack the deity of Christ. People make the claim that “Christ isn’t of the Father.” James states they are on the same level and we are going to prove it through other passages as well.

John 8:24 KJV

I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that _____ *He*, ye shall die in your sins.

Does your bible *italicize* the “*He*” in this passage? _____

The “*He*” being is italicized meaning it was added by the translator. So we can read this statement again with out the “*He*”. “If ye believe not that “I Am” ye shall die in your sins. Did you catch that, “I Am”?”

Read Exodus 3:14, and what does God tell Moses to say to Pharaoh about who sent him? _____

Verse 2

James 1:2 KJV

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

What is the Greek word for the word “joy”? _____

What does “joy” mean in the Greek?

Reference Hebrews 12:2, and look up using a concordance the word for “joy”. What is it?

Christ continued in joy or a calm delight for us to bear Himself on the cross. Why? He knew he would be on the right hand of God! Just knowing glory awaits us, ought to be enough to endure the trials with a calm delight.

In 2 Timothy 3:12, what does Paul tell young Timothy?

In 1 Peter 4:15-16, what does Peter tell the Christians about suffering?

Verse 3

James 1:3 KJV

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

“*Knowing*” meaning come to knowledge or be aware of. The word is in the present tense, meaning continual. Why is that?

Why would James state that the trying, or testing of your faith works patience?

Notice how he never mentions to give into the trials! He mentions that we will have to endure through them.

Verse 4

James 1:4 KJV

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Using a concordance, look up the word “*perfect*, and *entire*”. Then write the definition below.

After looking those words up, it is clear now why James tells us to let patience have her perfect work. So that we can be mature in matters and lacking nothing. We can be fully equipped to handle situations.

What is another passage about being equipped with armor? Hint: Paul talks about it.

Verse 5

James 1:5 KJV

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

What wisdom is James talking about? Read verse 4 again. He is talking about the wisdom to accomplish what is stated in verse 4.

When dealing with asking for wisdom from God, how does one ask and get wisdom today?

Reference 2 Timothy 2:15

Verse 6

James 1:6 KJV

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

What does it mean to let him ask in faith, nothing wavering?

What does nothing wavering mean?

From here, we can see why James makes mention of one who doubts being like a wave in the sea, one who can be easily pushed around because of the doubting. When we doubt God, we have no strong foundation.

We need to ask in true faith, not just a mere mental assertion that God exist. Who also believed, yet trembled (James 2:19)?

We see that this verse is also in the present tense, meaning a continual effort on our part. How do we ask in faith?

Verse 7

James 1:7 KJV

For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

What does James say will happen to those who have no faith, or a wavering faith?

If one is reading from the scriptures, but doesn't have faith in what they are reading, will they gain anything from the scriptures?

Verse 8

James 1:8 KJV

A double minded man [is] unstable in all his ways.

What does James say about the double minded, wavering, or doubting person?

As a Christian, should we be constantly doubting and being unstable in all of our ways?

Verses 9-11

James 1:9-11 KJV

9 Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted: 10 But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away. 11 For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.

James starts to switch gears in this section of verses. He begins to compare the poor or lowly man to that of a wealthy social status.

Why can the poor or lowly brother glory in his exaltation?

Why will the rich man fade away in all his pursuits?

James is driving the point home about where spiritual blessings are found. Many put all of their faith in the mighty dollar, while Christians are to put their faith in God. The Christian is the richest individual in the world, all while having nothing to their name.

Why is this?

Read Ephesians 1:1-7, where are all spiritual blessings found?

James also makes it clear in this passage that riches will vanish away very fast, much like our time on this earth. Reference Hebrews 9:27

James is making it very clear that the rich man and the lowly Christian will both have the same appointment upon death. They will still have to stand before God and be judged. Much like the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16.

James is not condemning money, but rather the love of it putting it above God. The point he is getting at is to rejoice in Christ, not the riches of this world. If you learn to do that, you will be blessed in all your ways.

Let us keep in mind our retirement. I am not talking about your earthly retirement, but your spiritual retirement. Are you putting in for your spiritual retirement, like you are for your world retirement?

Read John 14:1-6, what is Christ preparing for us?

Let us rejoice that we have a spiritual retirement that awaits us!

Verse 12

James 1:12 KJV

Blessed is the man that endureth _____: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that _____ him.

Using a concordance, look up the word “*tried*” in the Greek and write the definition below.

It is important to note you must show yourself approved in order to obtain the reward. Paul explains to the Corinthians that there is a race in which Christians run. Paul showed himself approved to God, and obtained his reward (1 Cor. 9:24, 2 Tim. 4:6).

John 14:15 KJV

If ye love me, _____ my commandments.

John 15:14 KJV

Ye are my friends, ____ ye do whatsoever I _____ you.

Matthew 7:21-23 KJV

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that _____ the will of my Father which is in heaven. [22] Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? [23] And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: _____ from me, ye that work iniquity.

Using a concordance, look up the word “*iniquity*” in the Greek and write the definition below.

Verse 13

James 1:13 KJV

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am _____ of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

Does God tempt anyone today? _____

Read Isaiah 59:1-3. What separates us from God?

Since this is true, that sin separates us from God, can God tempt us with sin?

Verses 14-15*James 1:14-15 KJV*

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Write out the descending steps and what they lead to.

It is important to note that James is explaining that the only way someone sins, is when they are drawn away by their own desires and lusts. Much like one being lured away by a harlot.

Verse 16*James 1:16 KJV*

Do not err, my beloved brethren.

Using a concordance, look up the wording “*do not err*” in the Greek and write the definition out below.

Many things in this world can deceive us, some examples would be:

- You don't have to be obedient to God
- You don't have to live like Christ
- You can view any media that has mature content, like nudity, vulgar language, etc.
- You don't have to change and can still drink, smoke, swear, attend dances, and go to sinful events.

List out some more that you can think of.

Don't be deceived that God tempts and entices man to sin. To believe that He does this is deceitful. As Christians, we need to be on the lookout for people being deceived because it's throughout the whole world! We need to watch and warn because of what the Bible says.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 KJV

Know ye not that the _____ shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, [10] Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall _____ the kingdom of God. [11] And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Using a concordance, look up the word “*unrighteous*” in the Greek and write the definition below.

Verse 17

James 1:17 KJV

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from _____, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Using a concordance, look up the words “*gift*” and “*gift*” after the word perfect and write out the definitions below.

It is important to note that all gifts are perfect and good when from above.

Using a concordance, look up the word “*from above*” and write the definition below.

Now, reference John 3:3 and using a concordance, write out the definition for “*again*”.

From here we can learn that we as Christians, are born from above. Keeping in mind that every good gift is from above, from God the father. God has offered up His Son to us for the best gift from above. Salvation!

Also reference Malachi 3:6. What does the writer here state about God?

Verse 18*James 1:18 KJV*

Of his own will begat he us with the word of _____, that we _____ be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

God cared so much for His creation that through the truth, the Bible, He brought a way to be saved. Notice here the word “should” or “might” be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures. God does not force anyone to, or automatically grant admission into His son’s body. One must do it God’s way if they want to become a kind of firstfruits.

In Luke 18:18-23, what did Christ tell the ruler he needed to do in order to be apart of God’s kingdom?

Verses 19-20*James 1:19-20 KJV*

19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be _____ to hear, _____ to speak, _____ to wrath: 20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

Using a concordance, look up the definitions for the words “*swift*” and “*slow*” and write them out below.

Proverbs 10:19 KJV

In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.

Proverbs 29:20 KJV

Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

Proverbs 12:1 KJV

Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish.

It is important to note that James is teaching us a command to follow for proper Christian living. We need to be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath

Verse 20*James 1:20 KJV*

For the wrath of man worketh _____ the righteousness of God.

In our wrath, we do not accomplish anything. In our wrath, the righteousness of God is not being shown through us. **T/F**

Psalm 119:172 KJV

My tongue shall speak of thy _____: for all thy commandments are

_____.

Verse 21

James 1:21 KJV

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

Wherefore, we are to lay aside:

Using a concordance, write out the definitions for “*filthiness*” and “*superfluity of naughtiness*”.

As Christians we are to be dead from sin, to have no part in it. That is why James states to lay aside “**all**” wickedness.

Reference Romans 6:1-6

In verse 21, James tells us that we need to receive with meekness the engrafted word. That word in the Greek means

Strong's Definitions: ἔμφυτος ἐμphytos, em'-foo-tos; from G1722 and a derivative of G5453; implanted (figuratively):—engrafted.

Explain what this means we must do to be pleasing to God?

Many today claim to follow God, but do not engraft the word of God into them. We can not serve self and God at the same time, that is called being a hypocrite.

Verse 22

James 1:22 KJV

But be ye _____ of the word, and not hearers only, _____ your own selves.

What does being a doer of the word mean?

Verse 23-24

James 1:23-24 KJV

For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: [24] For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

Using a concordance, look up the word “*beholding*” in the Greek.

Now let us observe the tenses found in this verse.

- Past - He was observing himself
- Present - He leaves and forgets
- Past - He forgot what kind of man he was

When a man does not carefully consider the word of God, he has not engrafted the word of God into him. The word is not in his heart.

Verse 25

James 1:25 KJV

But whoso looketh into the _____ law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be _____ in his deed.

What is the perfect law of liberty known as?

Much like a mirror, we look into it to find out what is wrong with our appearance. The New Testament law should be no different. We need to look into God’s word to find out what is wrong in our life!

The key here being man continues therein. Man stays near to the Bible that can save souls. One who is not a forgetful person about the Bible has engrafted it in his or her heart.

Verse 26

James 1:26 KJV

If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion [is] vain.

What does James tell us about someone who can not bridle or control his tongue?

Verse 27

James 1:27 KJV

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, [and] to keep himself unspotted from the world.

What does James tell us we are to do as good Christians?

Is this a command or a suggestion?

We need to be benevolent not just as a congregation but as individuals also. To many today think they don't have to do anything because the whole congregation is doing something with the "money". That doesn't negate each individuals responsibilities.

Chapter 2

Verse 1

James 2:1 KJV

My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with _____ of persons.

Using a concordance, look up the words “*respect of persons*” in the Greek.

The faith of our master and His laws are not partial or showing respect of persons. He is talking about favoritism here. God is impartial so we must be impartial!

Reference *Romans 2:11* and *Acts 10:34-35*.

Verse 2

James 2:2 KJV

For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

An illustration is set forth. James is making it plain, simple, and to the point.

1st - A sharp dressed man with jewelry showing signs of wealth.

2nd - One coming in dirty clothing and showing signs of being poor.

Verse 3

James 2:3 KJV

And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

Now James goes down the path of a normal reaction in society. Society holds other people on a pedestal frequently.

Can you think of some examples in our society of this happening?

Does God care about our outward appearance?

Verse 4

James 2:4 KJV

Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are _____ judges of evil thoughts?

Were the people at this time showing partiality or favoritism? _____

What are some evil thoughts they were judging someone for?

Verse 5

James 2:5 KJV

Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the _____ of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath _____ to them that love him?

Using a concordance, look up the words “*poor*” in the Greek.

Is James stating that having money is a bad thing? _____

What is the point James is trying to get across with this verse?

Reference 1 *John 2:4* and *Matthew 5:3*.

Verse 6-7

James 2:6-7 KJV

6 But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? 7 Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

What does James inform the early Christians that they have done to those who are of the poor status?

Galatians 6:10 KJV

As we have therefore _____, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Who are those in the household of faith?

Reference *1 Corinthians 6:7-11*.

Verse 8-9

James 2:8 KJV

_____ ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

Using a concordance, look up the words “*if*” in the Greek.

Is the word “*if*” conditional?

You must see, do, and fulfill. All are subject to the law of Christ, but James states that we are to love others as ourself and deny self.

James 2:9 KJV

But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit _____, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

What does James tell us that sin is to God and His law?

Verse 10

James 2:10 KJV

For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in _____ point, he is guilty of all.

What precedent is set pertaining to how many since could keep us out of heaven?

People today state that we can pick and choose what laws to follow in the New Testament. What are some violations that you can name that go against God’s law?

Romans 12:1-2 KJV

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. [2] And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Using a concordance, look up the words “*conformed, and transformed*” in the Greek.

Verse 11*James 2:11 KJV*

For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a _____ of the _____.

The point James is bringing to light is that the same amount of authority behind the law “do not commit adultery” stands with the law “do not murder.” One is not lesser than another. It is all unlawful. There is no little sin and big sin. Sin is sin and Christians need to start calling it sin. People in the world cover it up with fancy words. All sin has its consequences.

Read *Luke 16:13*. What is the writer talking about? Can we serve God and wealth?

Verse 12*James 2:12 KJV*

So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be _____ by the law of liberty.

What is the “*law of Liberty*”?

Verse 13*James 2:13 KJV*

For he shall have judgment _____ mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and _____ rejoiceth against judgment.

Read *Matthew 25:41-46* and explain what this passage is talking about.

Verse 14

James 2:14 KJV

What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have _____ works? can faith save him?

This passage is perhaps the most attacked passage because it teaches against Calvinism and faith only, as well as some teachings from Martin Luther.

James here starts with a question that demands an answer. What does it profit if some state they have faith but do not have works. Can faith alone save someone?

Verse 15-16

James 2:15-16 KJV

15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, 16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

If a brother or sister is naked, starving for food and all that is said is “depart in peace, be warmed and filled” instead of helping is what type of response?

Reference *Galatians 6:9-10*.

Verse 17

James 2:17 KJV

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

Verse 17 is the conclusion from verses 14 through 16. What is James concluding here?

Using a concordance, look up the word’s “works” and “dead” in the Greek and write the definition out below.

Verse 18

James 2:18 KJV

Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my _____.

Reference *Matthew 5:13-16*.

****Memorize *John 14:15, 15:14*****

John 14:15 KJV

If ye love me, _____ my commandments.

John 15:14 KJV

Ye are my friends, if ye _____ whatsoever I command you.

Using a concordance, look up the word “do” in the Greek and write the definition below.

What does James mean by proving our faith by showing works?

Verse 19

James 2:19 KJV

Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and _____.

Did believing only, save the devils? Reference *Matthew 8:29*.

Verse 20

James 2:20 KJV

But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is _____?

See the definition of “dead” from vs. 17.

Reference Hebrews chapter 11 - we are saved by faith through obedience to God.

Verse 21-23*John 14:21-23 KJV*

21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. 22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? 23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Was Abraham justified by his obedient actions?

What did this offering represent?

Verse 24*James 2:24 KJV*

Ye see then how that by _____ a man is justified, and not by faith only.

Explain works a Christian must do.

What is the only conclusion that we can draw from this verse?

Read Acts 10:34-35 and explain what this passage is talking about.

Verse 25*James 2:25 KJV*

Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent [them] out another way?

What did Rehab do to be justified by God?

Verse 26*James 2:26 KJV*

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith _____ works is dead also.

Can you be a simple “check the box” Christian doing no works at all, and still be justified to God on judgment day?

Chapter 3

Verse 1

James 3:1 KJV

My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

Using a concordance, look up the word “*masters*” in the Greek and write the definition below.

Using a concordance, look up the word “*condemnation*” in the Greek and write the definition below.

What is James explaining in verse 1?

Reference 1 *Timothy 3:1-7*.

Verse 2

James 3:2 KJV

For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to _____ the whole body.

Using a concordance, look up the word “*offend*” in the Greek and write the definition below.

What is James explaining in verse 2?

Verses 3-4

James 3:3-4 KJV

3 Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. 4 Behold also the ships, which though [they be] so great, and [are] driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

What is James explaining about a horse and ship in this passage?

Verse 5

James 3:5 KJV

Even so the _____ is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

What are the two things we can learn about man's tongue?

Verse 6

James 3:6 KJV

And the tongue [is] a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

Proverbs 16:27 KJV

An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is as a _____ fire.

Reference *Proverbs 26:18-22*.

As we have learned, the tongue is very difficult to control. Make no mistake - this doesn't mean we should stop working at trying to control it. What is the warning for those who refuse to control the tongue found in *Revelation 21:8*.

Verses 7-8

James 3:7-8 KJV

For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: [8] But the tongue can no man _____; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

Using a concordance, look up the word “*tame*” in the Greek and write the definition below.

What is the point of James stating all of this about the tongue? Is it to say never try to tame it, or perhaps a warning of what to work on first?

Verses 9-10

James 3:9-10 KJV

9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

Are we to bless God and worship Him, then curse our fellow man after that?

Conducting ourselves in this manner does not produce righteousness. Remember *James 1:20 KJV*: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

Can you work for God and against God at the same time, while being pleasing to Him?

Verses 11-12

James 3:11-12 KJV

11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet [water] and bitter? 12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so [can] no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

Read *Matthew 7:15-20* and explain the passage and how it correlates to James chapter 3.

Reference Matthew 12:33-37.

Verse 13

James 3:13 KJV

Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

Using a concordance, look up the word “*conversation*” in the Greek and write the definition below.

Explain the qualifications for someone to be wise and of an understanding nature.

Verse 14

James 3:14 KJV

But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

Using a concordance, look up the word “*bitter*” in the Greek and write the definition below.

Using a concordance, look up the word “*envying*” in the Greek and write the definition below.

Using a concordance, look up the word “*strife*” in the Greek and write the definition below.

Reference *Ephesians 4:1-3*.

Verse 15

James 3:15 KJV

This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

What does James call worldly knowledge?

Read 1 John 3:7-9 and John 17:17 and explain below.

1 Corinthians 1:10 KJV

Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the _____ thing, and that there be no _____ among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Read *1 Corinthian's 3:1-4* and explain below.

Verse 16*James 3:16 KJV*

For where envying and strife [is], there [is] confusion and every evil work.

1 Corinthians 14:33 KJV

For God is _____ the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

Does, envy, strife, and confusion come from God or man?

Verse 17*James 3:17 KJV*

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, [and] easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

What is the wisdom from above described as?

Using a concordance, look up the word “*pure*” in the Greek and write the definition below.

Verse 18*James 3:18 KJV*

And the fruit of righteousness is _____ in peace of them that make peace.

Can we live in sin, and yet be righteous towards God? To help answer this, reference *1 John 3:7*.

Chapter 4

Verse 1

James 4:1 KJV

From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

Where does all of the earthly fighting and problems come from?

What does John explain in *1 John 2:15-17*?

1 Peter 2:11 KJV

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, _____ from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

Verse 2

James 4:2 KJV

Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

Using a concordance, look up the word “*lust*” in the Greek and write the definition below.

What are some other biblical examples of lust causing problems?

Verse 3

James 4:3 KJV

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

Do people today ask for vain things through prayer? What are some examples?

How do we make sure we do not pray in vain?

Verse 4

James 4:4 KJV

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Using a concordance, look up the word “*enmity*” in the Greek and write the definition below.

Using a concordance, look up the word “*adulterers*” in the Greek and write the definition below.

Read *Ephesians 5:23-27* and explain what Paul is talking about, and how it correlates back to *James 4:4*.

Explain unity and union with denominations in this world today? Are we supposed to have union or unity with them? Reference *Ephesians 4:1-6* and *Romans 16:16*.

Matthew 6:24 KJV

No man can serve two masters: for either he will _____ the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and _____ the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Verse 5

James 4:5 KJV

Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

What is James asking them in verse 5?

Read *1 Corinthians 11:2-3*, what is Paul explaining to the church at Corinth?

Would being a part of any other denomination be a friend of God, or of the world?

What does James mean by the ending of verse 5 - "The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?"

Verse 6

James 4:6 KJV

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

What is James explaining in this verse about God giving grace?

What does God give to the humble? What does it mean to be humble in this context for God?

Verse 7

James 4:7 KJV

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Using a concordance, look up the word “*submit*” in the Greek and write the definition below.

Using a concordance, look up the word “*resist*” in the Greek and write the definition below.

Write out *Ecclesiastes 12:13*.

How does Christ respond to the devil in *Matthew 4:4,7,11*?

Verse 8

James 4:8 KJV

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

Read *Hebrews 10:19-25* and explain what the Hebrew writer is explaining?

If we draw near to God, what will happen?

What does James mean by cleansing your hands and purifying your heart?

Verse 9

James 4:9 KJV

Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.

Read *2 Corinthians 7:10* and explain what godly sorrow produces.

Verse 10

James 4:10 KJV

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Using a concordance, look up the word "humble" in the Greek and write the definition below.

Explain as a Christian how we are supposed to be humble to the world.

Verse 11

James 4:11 KJV

Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

What does it mean to speak evil of one another? Use the Greek definition to help answer this question.

Is speaking evil of your brethren using your tongue in the proper way?

Verse 12

James 4:12 KJV

There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

Is James stating to not judge brethren in this verse? Remember the context of what he is dealing with.

Who is the one lawgiver?

Hebrews 5:9-10 KJV

And being made _____, he became the _____ of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; [10] Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

Using a concordance, look up the word “*author*” in the Greek and write the definition below.

Verse 13-14

James 4:13-14 KJV

Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: [14] Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

What is James concluding with this passage about tomorrow?

Are you spending more time worrying about the earthly legacy you will leave behind or focusing on every day being your last to serve God?

Verse 15

James 4:15 KJV

For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

What does James mean by the statement, “if the Lord will”?

Are we promised tomorrow or even the next minute?

Verse 16

James 4:16 KJV

But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

Why is such boasting wrong?

Reference *Galatians 6:14*.

Verse 17

James 4:17 KJV

Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

Is it enough to just know what is right and wrong?

What is the answer to those who know that something is wrong, yet do it anyway?

Will any amount of sin keep you out of heaven?

Chapter 5

Verse 1

James 5:1 KJV

Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.

Is the condemnation to the rich because of their attitudes or because of the riches they own?

Reference *Luke 16:19-31*. What was the outcome of this rich man?

Verse 2

James 5:2 KJV

Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten.

What is James explaining in this verse?

Reference *Matthew 6:19-21*. What is the example given here?

Verse 3

James 5:3 KJV

Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

Reference *Romans 2:5*. What is Paul explaining here and how does it correlate to *James 5:3*?

Verse 4*James 5:4 KJV*

Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.

How are some of these rich men treating their laborers?

What does James say about the cries of these laborers?

Verse 5-6*James 5:5-6 KJV*

Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. [6] Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.

What is James making very plain in verse 5?

Because of their love for the riches of this world, what did they do to the just people?

Verse 7*James 5:7 KJV*

Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

Using a concordance, look up the word "*patient*" in the Greek and write the definition below.

Does the farmer’s fruit come up immediately after planting it? What does it require?

Reference *Hebrews 12:1-2* and explain the meaning of this passage?

What does Paul tell young Timothy in *2 Timothy 2:1-3*?

Verse 8

James 5:8 KJV

Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

What does James explain that we must do as faithful Christians?

Using a concordance, look up the word “*stablish*” in the Greek and write the definition below.

Verse 9

James 5:9 KJV

Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

Using a concordance, look up the word “*grudge*” in the Greek and write the definition below.

Philippians 2:14 KJV

Do all things without _____ and _____:

Using a concordance, look up the word “murmurings” in the Greek and write the definition below.

Using a concordance, look up the word “disputing” in the Greek and write the definition below.

What are we not to do in our walk of life?

Verse 10

James 5:10 KJV

Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

List out some prophets that suffered for following God.

Why are they to be an example?

Verse 11

James 5:11 KJV

Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

What did Job lose?

Did he ever curse God, or was he patient and long suffering?

Using a concordance, look up the word “*pitiful*” in the Greek and write the definition below.

How will this benefit us in the end of our Christian walk on this earth?

Verse 12

James 5:12 KJV

But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.

What are we to not do with God’s name?

Are we to be a man or woman of our word? What does it mean?

I feel it is necessary to talk about some persecution going on during this time and in time to come. Christians in the early times went through a lot of persecution and that’s why the Bible explains to endure through the persecution and stand strong for the Lord. If you do, there will be great reward. All of what I am about to talk about comes out of a book called the Eternal Kingdom by F. W. Maddox. If you want to read it, there are still copies out there.

We know that Christ had been crucified during the reign of Tiberius in A.D. 33. During the following 7 years of his reign the church began to grow rapidly as we find throughout the book of Acts. The Jews become increasingly jealous and began the persecution, we can see that account with Stephen being stoned for preaching and giving them a history lesson.

We also see the Jews taking advantage of their favorable position in government with King Herod. They turned Herod against Christians. We read in *Acts 12:2* how he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

It is said that the very existence of Christians was considered a threat to the peace and security of the Roman government. They felt Christians needed to be eliminated.

Because of the great persecution, there is mention of Christians meeting secretly to avoid being killed because the murder was going on in waves. Because of these secret meetings, rumors started to arise that caused even more problems.

Christians began to be accused of some absurd crimes. These accusations included incest, cannibalisms, drinking of blood, infanticide, and plotting to overthrow the government.

They were accused of this because of two different Roman groups meeting in secret. These groups were called the Druids and Bacchanalia. They did all the things the Christians were accused of.

The Druids were known for human sacrifices in their rites and practicing magic. The Bacchanalia considered nothing to be immoral. They held secret meetings at night. They did all sorts of crime and ungodly things.

Because these groups met at night and in secret, Christians were grouped in with them. Christians were also meeting in secret to avoid being slaughtered.

We also know during Nero's reign that he ordered Christians in large numbers to be killed. The apostle Paul also suffered under Nero but he was also beheaded after writing 2 Timothy.

Domitian also put to death people without any reasonable cause. He would kill, banish, and confiscate all the property of Christians.

Under Trajan in 98-117 A.D., Christians were punished just for simply being a Christian. Under him the existing laws which made Christianity illegal were interpreted in such a way as to make possible the destruction of the Christian religion.

Polycarp was on trial facing the possibility of being put to death. The government told him that he needed to revile Christ but Polycarp stated "for eighty and six years have I been His servant, and He has done me no wrong, and how can I blaspheme my King who saved me."

But as you all can guess, Caesar did not like that answer. They asked him one more time to denounce Christ. He stated "I am a Christian." They threatened all sorts of wild beasts to come upon him if he chose to stay on this current path. They threatened him with fire while fastened to a stake. This person Polycarp ended up being tied to a stake and burned alive until death for not renouncing Christ.

Another example is a woman with children. Her children were taken from her and she was also threatened with wild beasts to give up Christ. She did not and would not. Her own father pleaded with her to give up Christ to save the life of her child. But as she

answered “I am a christian, I cannot denounce christ.” She was condemned to the beasts.

Friends, I could give you example after example of Christians being persecuted. I want us all to understand the gravity of what they went through, hence why the Bible talks about standing strong even if they take your life.

As we sit here in our comfortable pews, let us not forget that history can repeat itself. There may be a time coming were Christians will be persecuted again. We may not think you will see it again in your life time, but it is a really possibility that we may.

On April 19, 2018, the California State Assembly approved Bill AB 2943. According to this bill, the Church can no longer preach or teach that homosexuality is wrong and cannot try to correct that behavior. Many are concerned about the ramifications of this. Even psychotherapy for gender dysphoria is against this law.

Preachers are being locked up for preaching what the Bible states. Preachers are being banned on social media for preaching the truth. This is not as harsh as what use to happen to Christians but it all started with banning the truth. It can grow from there.

Verse 13

James 5:13 KJV

Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

Using a concordance, look up the word “*afflicted*” in the Greek and write the definition below.

Who is James stating that we should always turn to when we are suffering in life?

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 KJV

Rejoice evermore. [17] Pray without _____. [18] In _____ thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Using a concordance, look up the word “*ceasing*” in the Greek and write the definition below.

Verse 14

James 5:14 KJV

Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

Using a concordance, look up the word "sick" in the Greek and write the definition below.

How are we to help our brethren when sick and weak?

Verse 15

James 5:15 KJV

And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Is James stating that every time we pray that it will automatically save the sick, or is James stating to put our faith and trust in God as he has designed the body to heal?

Is God faithful and just to forgive sins? Reference *1 John 1:9-10*.

Verse 16

James 5:16 KJV

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

What does it mean to confess your faults or trespasses to each other?

Why does James state that the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much?

Verse 17-18

James 5:17-18 KJV

Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. [18] And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

Why did Elijah pray for this rain? Who was Elijah?

Was this still during the miraculous time period?

Verse 19-20

James 5:19-20 KJV

Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; [20] Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

Using a concordance, look up the phrase “do err” in the Greek and write the definition below.

Is it a command of God’s people to warn others when wrong?

Can we just overlook sin and put our head in the sand, acting like nothing is wrong?

Can one fall completely away from God?

What does Paul tell the brethren in *Galatians 6:1*?
