

## **THE EPISTLE OF JAMES**

### What Maturing Christians Are To Do And Say

#### **I. Persevere Through Trials 1:2-25**

##### **A. Count it all Joy when Encountering Trials 1:2-4**

1. Trials are necessary to purify faith
2. Trials are necessary to produce steadfastness
3. Steadfastness in trials produces mature, well-rounded believers

##### **B. Ask God for Wisdom to Persevere 1:5-8**

1. God will give the wisdom
2. God gives wisdom generously
3. God gives wisdom without reproach
4. God will not give wisdom to anyone who does not ask in faith

##### **C. Whatever the Situation, Use God's Wisdom 1:9-11**

1. The poor
2. The rich

D. God Gives “The Crown of Life” to all who Persevere and Love God  
1:12

E. Realize that Temptations Come: 1:13-15

1. Not from God
  - a. God is not to be blamed for temptations
  - b. God cannot be tempted to do evil
  - c. God tempts no one
2. When each person
  - a. Is tempted by his/her own desire
  - b. Yielding to temptation produces sin
  - c. Sin, fully grown, brings forth death

F. Every Good Gift is from God

1. God is the source of every good and perfect gift
2. God never changes
3. God brought us forth by the word of truth
  - a. Of his own will
  - b. That we should be firstfruits

G. Persevere by Doing God’s Word 1:19-25

1. Prepare yourself to receive God’s Word
  - a. Quick to hear, slow to speak
  - b. Slow to anger
  - c. Put away all moral filth
  - d. Receive the Word with meekness
    - (1) implanted Word
    - (2) Word which is able to save your souls
2. Do the Word
  - a. Hearers only 1:22b-24
  - b. Doers of the Word 1:22a, 25
    - (1) perseveres in doing
    - (2) blessed in his doing

## II. Do the Three Actions Required for Religion that is Acceptable to God 1:26-5:6

- A. Action One: Visit the Helpless in their Affliction 1:27-2:26
  - 1. Widows and orphans 1:27
  - 2. Negative Example: The sin of favoritism 2:1-13
    - a. Basic principle 2:1
    - b. Actions and words that favor the rich over the poor 2:2-4
    - c. Why such favoritism is wrong 2:5-7
    - d. Favoritism is an example of not doing God's Word 2:8-13
    - e. Love and mercy triumph over judgment
  - 3. Negative Example: The sin of saying but not doing 2:14-26
    - a. Words do not feed or clothe the poor 2:14-17
    - b. Faith without works can not be demonstrated 2:18-20
      - (1) personal example
      - (2) demons
    - c. Faith is verified by works 2:21-26
      - (1) Abraham
      - (2) Rahab
- B. Action Two: Control the Tongue 1:26; 3:1-12; 4:11,12; 5:9,12
  - 1. Unless the tongue is bridled, one's religion is worthless 1:26
  - 2. The difficulty of controlling the tongue 3:1-12
    - a. Teachers will be judged with greater strictness 3:1
    - b. The power of the tongue 3:2-5
    - c. The nature of the tongue 3:6-8
    - d. The hypocrisy of believers caused by the tongue 3:9-12
  - 3. Specific sins of the tongue
    - a. The sin of slander 4:11, 12
    - b. The sin of grumbling 5:9
    - c. The sin of swearing 5:12

C. Action Three: Keep Oneself Unstained by the World 3:13-5:6

1. By using wisdom from above 3:13-18
  - a. Wisdom from below
    - (1) produces bitter jealousy, selfish ambition, boasting, denying the truth
    - (2) is earthly, unspiritual, demonic
  - b. Wisdom from above
    - (1) is demonstrated by good conduct and works done in meekness 3:13
    - (2) is pure, peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, and sincere
    - (3) produces a harvest of righteousness sown in peace by those who make peace
2. Spiritually adulterous believers are urged to repent 4:1-12
  - a. Because quarreling and fighting come from inner passions 4:1,2
  - b. Because of lack of prayer or prayer with wrong motives 4:2,3
  - c. Because one cannot be both a friend of God and a friend of the world
  - d. Because God will draw near to all who repent 4:7-10
  - e. Because slander against brothers offends God
3. By not omitting what we know we should do 4:13-17
  - a. Making plans without consulting God
  - b. Boasting in ourselves rather than giving glory to God
  - c. Sins of omission

4. Rich oppressors of the poor are warned 5:1-6
  - a. Judgment is coming to you 5:1,3,5
  - b. Testifying against you are:
    - (1) your corroded riches 5:2,3
    - (2) the wages you failed to pay 5:4
    - (3) the cries of cheated harvesters 5:4
    - (4) the innocent people you murdered 5:6

### **III. Persevere Through Trials 5:7-20**

- A. Persevere because the Judge is Coming 5:7-12
  1. Like patient farmers (without grumbling) 5:7-9
  2. Like the prophets and Job (without swearing) 5:10-12
  
- B. Whatever the Situation 5:13-18
  1. Respond with prayer or praise 5:13
  2. Pray for the sick 5:14,15
  3. The power of prayer is available to the righteous 5:16-18
  
- C. Those who Persevere Can Help Sinners Turn Back to God 5:19,20