

01 Trials and Meeting It James 1:1-15

1. Trials and Spiritual Maturity (James 1:1-4)

Read James 1:1-4. How does James exhort his readers to treat trials when they come?
Why does he say that? What does it mean to have perseverance and to persevere what?

2. Trials and Wisdom (James 1:5-11)

Read James 1:5-11. What is the relationship between trials and wisdom?

Will God give us wisdom whenever we ask for it? Why?

How does the example in v.9-11 shows an example of wisdom in life's trials of poverty and wealth?
What is the purpose of the example?

3. Trials and Temptation (James 1:12-15)

Read James 1:12-15. According to verse 12, why is the persevering man blessed?

What is temptation? And how does it relate to trials?

Why would someone say that God is tempting them? Why shouldn't they say that?

4. Applying the Passage

What difficulties have you recently faced or are you facing?

How might God be using them for your maturity?

Will you pray that God would help you to meet them with joy?

02 Religion and Practicing It James 1:16-27

1. Religion and Its True Meaning (James 1:16-18)

Read James 1:16-18. How does the view of God in verse 17 compare with the view implied in verse 13? What does it say about God in verses 17-18? What has God done for our salvation?

2. Religion and the Word (James 1:19-25)

From verses 16-18, what should be our response then?

How do we work out 'humble acceptance' in practice? What would be the opposite of accepting the word humbly?

What is the deception that James warns against?

What is the result of having the right attitude to God's word?

3. Religion and Its Outworking (James 1:26-27)

Read James 1:26-27. Why is religion worthless if a person cannot keep a tight rein on his tongue?

What is religion to God?

4. Applying the Passage

What steps could you take to make sure that you put into practice what you hear or read in the bible

In what situations do you find yourself quick to speak and quick to become angry?

How can you change your behavior in these situations?

03 Law and Keeping It James 2:1-13

1. The Law and Favoritism (James 2:1-7)

Read James 2:1-7. What does James say about favoritism?

Why should believing in “our glorious Lord Jesus Christ” keep us from showing favoritism?

In verse 5 says God has chosen the poor to be rich in faith. Is God guilty of showing favoritism in this way? Explain.

How is showing favoritism contradictory to the law?

What should our attitude be towards the rich and the poor?

2. The Law and Breaking It (James 2:8-13)

Read James 2:8-13. How can breaking the law at one point mean that you have broken all of it?

What does James say about how we should act and speak? And why?

3. Applying the Passage

Are you treating people with favoritism?

How can you avoid treating people that way?

04 Faith and Proving It James 2:14-26

1. Faith and Works (James 2:14-17)

Read James 2:14-17. How does James describe so-called 'faith'?

What is the point of the illustration in verses 15-16?

What is the conclusion that James is trying to prove?

2. Faith and Some Examples (James 2:18-26)

Read James 2:18-26. According to verse 18-19, is there a link between faith and works?

How does James describe the faith of: (a) the demons, (b) Abraham, (c) Rahab?

Does James ever say that works without faith can save? What does this imply about faith?

3. Applying the Passage

Is there anyone in your congregation who is in material need?

Is there anyone in your congregation who is 'not your type', someone you had never thought of talking to?

What can you do about it?

Are there any other areas in your life which is inconsistent with your trust in God?

You explain to a non-Christian friend that we are not saved by good works but by Jesus' death. You call your friend to repent and have faith in Christ. He or she replies that if you are saved just by believing in Jesus, then it does not matter what you do. How would you answer from James?

05 Words and Controlling Them James 3:1-12

1. Words and Teaching (James 3:1)

Read James 3:1. Why does James say that many should not be teachers?

Why is it easy to make mistakes as a teacher?

2. Words and the Tongue (James 3:2-12)

Read James 3:2-12. Why does James say that if you can control your mouth, you can control your body? What analogies does James use?

From verses 5 onwards, how does James describe the tongue?

Why is the tongue so dangerous?

In verses 9-12, James uses a series of analogies from nature (springs, trees and vines). How do they highlight the inconsistencies of the tongue?

3. Applying the Passage

What recent situations can you think of where your speech has been harmful or has got you into trouble? What attitudes gave rise to this speech?

When are you most tempted to slander other people? What is the underlying problem and what can you do about it?

How can our words be consistently pure? In what ways can we change the things we say? What practical steps can you take to use your words in a wise and godly way?

06 Wisdom and Obtaining It James 3:13-4:12

1. False and True Wisdom (James 3:13-4:3)

Read James 3:13-4:3. According to this section, how is real wisdom revealed? What is false wisdom?

Where does true wisdom come from? How is its character? What are its results?

Where does false wisdom come from? How is its character? What are its results?

How do these wisdoms affect the level of peace or discord in a congregation?

2. Wisdom and Application (James 4:3-12)

Read James 4:3-12. Re-read verses 3-4. What does it mean to be motivated by our pleasures or passions? Why does James describe this as adultery?

According to verses 6-10, what is demanded of us? What is promised to us?

In verses 11-12, what does James exhort his readers to do? Why does he say that?

3. Applying the Passage

Are you growing in wisdom? What are the signs to tell you that you are growing?

In what ways do you see your Christian life being compromised by:
(a) your own desires and passions, (b) the influence of the world?

In verse 10, it says that we are to humble ourselves? How do we do that practically?

07 Tomorrow and Facing It James 4:13-5:12

1. Tomorrow and Boasting (James 4:13-16)

Read James 4:13-16. Who is James addressing in verse 13?

How is their behavior inconsistent with the truth?

What should their attitude be to the future?

2. Tomorrow and Materialism (James 5:1-6)

Read James 5:1-6. Who is James addressing in this passage?

What are the characteristics of these people?

What does tomorrow hold for them?

3. Tomorrow and Suffering (James 5:7-11)

Read James 5:7-11. Who is James addressing here?

What is the people's reaction to their situation?

What does tomorrow hold for them?

How is the coming of the Lord related to patience and grumbling?

4. Applying the Passage

What is good and what is bad about money?

"The Lord's coming is near." What difference does that make in your attitude towards the things you own now?

08 Prayer and Using It James 5:13-20

1. Prayer and Its Power (James 5:13-18)

Read James 5:13-18. What is the appropriate response in trouble?

What is the appropriate response in happiness? Why is it difficult?

What should we do in sickness?

What will be the result for the sick person (v.15)?

What should the whole congregation do (v.16)? Why does James say this?

What example does James use to describe the power of prayer?

(Optional) Does v.15 suggest that people, who are terminally ill, will be cured?

2. Prayer and Wandering (James 5:19-20)

Read James 5:19-20. How can these two verses be an encouragement to you?

3. Applying the Passage

What has this passage taught you about prayer?

09 Summary of James

**Over the last 8 weeks, we have been studying through the book of James.
How would you:**

How would you deal with trouble (James 1:1-4, 1:12-18; 5:7-11)?

What is true wisdom? How would you obtain wisdom (James 1:5-8; 3:13-18)?

How would you treat wealth (James 1:9-11; 2:1-7; 5:1-6)?

How dangerous are words? And how to control your words (James 1:19-21; 3:1-12; 4:11-12; 5:12)?

Is there faith without works? How are faith related to works (James 2:14-26)?

When should we pray? (James 5:13-20)?