



Book of James

LESSONS FOR LIFE

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PREFACE

It's a pure joy to meet with you on this Bible study on the book of James.

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. James 1:22

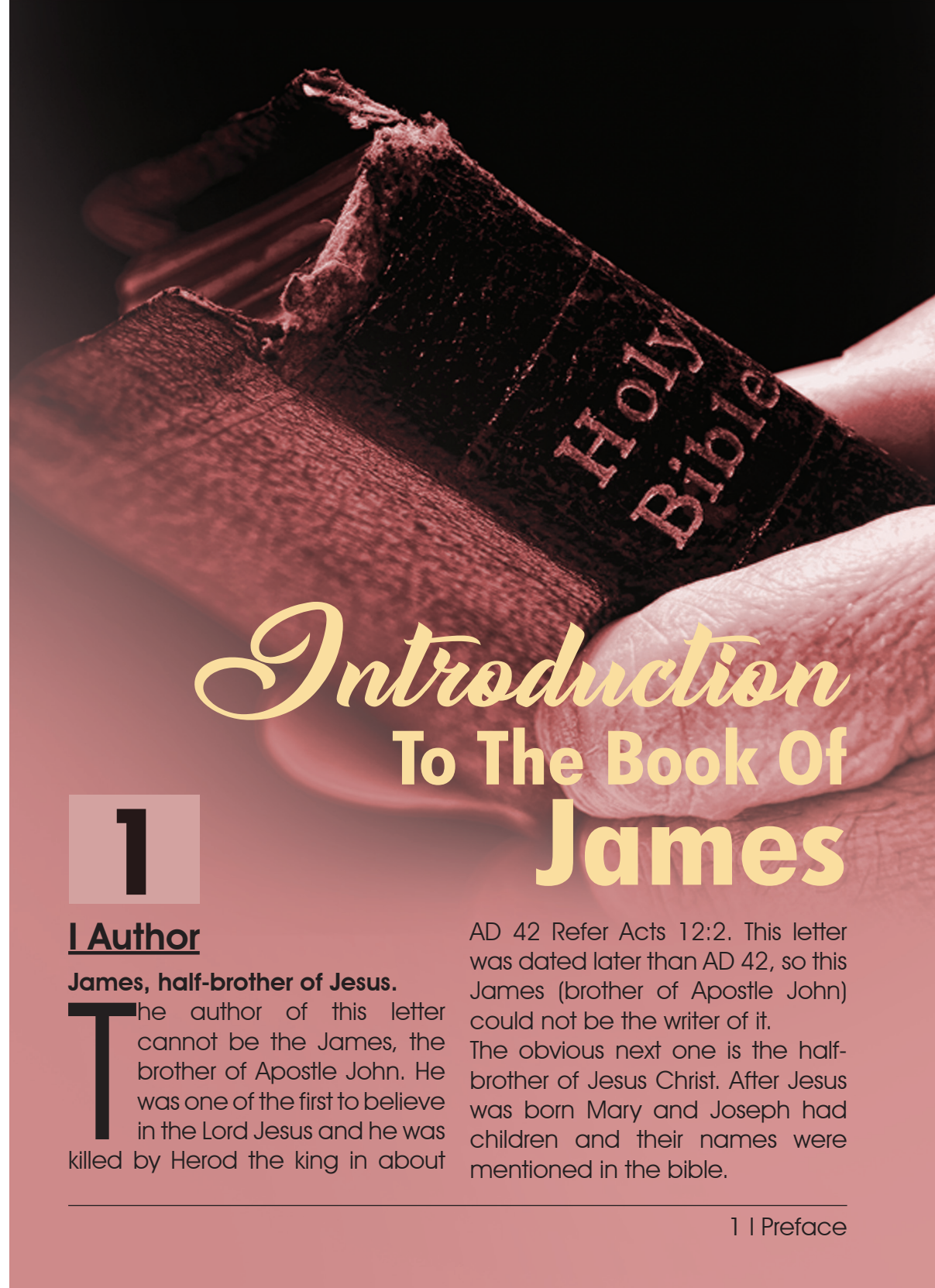
When I read this verse in my personal study few years back, it really made me ponder and led me to do a spiritual check upon myself. The result is the Bible study on the book of James. This book will help you when you watch the videos. Videos are available at www.youtube.com/user/wcflondon but you can also read this as a separate book for your personal Bible reading on the book of James.

This letter which was written by Apostle James is a very challenging one. We have studied this book through 15 titles, these will challenge, equip and empower you. This book challenged me so much and I am sure it will challenge you as well. If you take these lessons seriously then surely it will change you. Take one title at a time. It may take a week or two to read all the scriptures and to meditate upon it. My only advise is that you don't rush to read all the book or watch all the videos.

Teaching and writing these notes on this book had a profound impact in me, my prayers is the same for you. My prayer is that you will seek God's help in studying this and as you walk along in this journey take time to do a spiritual check on yourself.

May the Holy Spirit enable you to change you like the image of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Love and Blessings
-Abraham D John



Introduction To The Book Of James

1

1 Author

James, half-brother of Jesus.

The author of this letter cannot be the James, the brother of Apostle John. He was one of the first to believe in the Lord Jesus and he was killed by Herod the king in about

AD 42 Refer Acts 12:2. This letter was dated later than AD 42, so this James (brother of Apostle John) could not be the writer of it. The obvious next one is the half-brother of Jesus Christ. After Jesus was born Mary and Joseph had children and their names were mentioned in the bible.

Mark 6:3, Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" So they were offended at Him.

Jesus started His public ministry and He left His home but His brothers did not believe in Him that He is the Messiah, the Son of God.

John 7:5, For even His brothers did not believe in Him.

James, Jesus half-brother was met by Jesus after His resurrection,

1 Corinthians 15:7, After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

Jesus was seen by the other apostles and over 500 people after His resurrection and He stayed with them for 40 days teaching about the Kingdom of God. Before Jesus was taken up to heaven

with the Angels He told His disciples to stay in Jerusalem so that they will receive the promise of God, the Holy Spirit (Acts 1: 4-8). 120 people gathered in the upper room. There James was there along with his mother.

Acts 1:13-14, And when they had entered, they went up into the

upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. 14 These all

the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and decided follow Him from the time between His death and after His resurrection.

James became a leader in the early church and he was well respected we see when Apostle Peter was released from the prison he was told by the angel to go and tell James.

Acts 12:17, But motioning to them with his hand to keep silent, he declared to them how the Lord had brought him

out of the prison. And he said, "Go, tell these things to James and to the brethren." And he departed and went to another place.

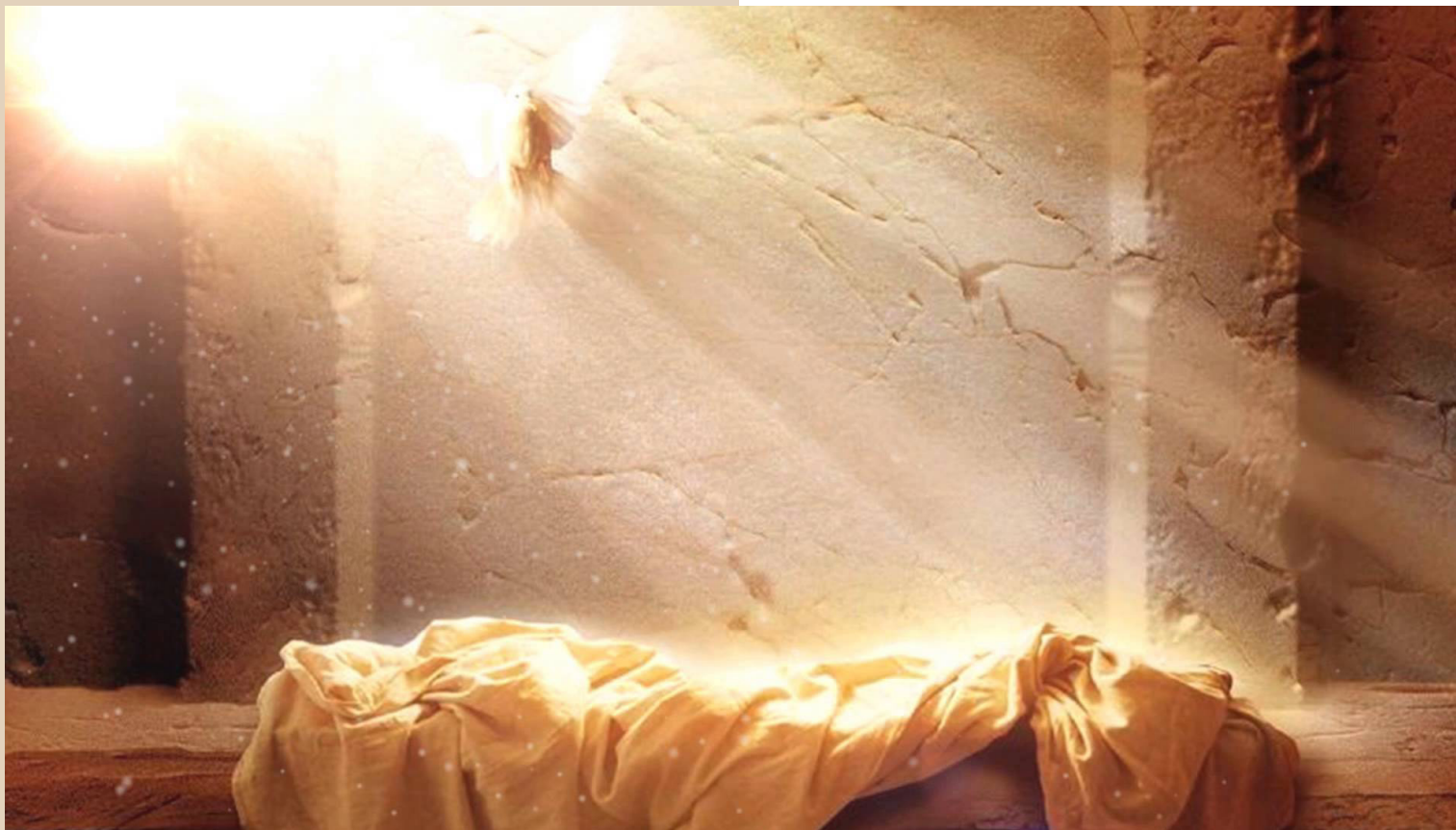
Apostle Paul writes to church in Galatia

continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

about his conversion and whom he met when he went to Jerusalem,

Galatians 1:19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

So James became a Believer in



James becomes a very prominent leader and heading the church in Jerusalem. Apostle Barnabas and Paul encountered the problem with the newly converted Christians from Gentiles. The existing Jewish believers were insisting that they also should uphold the traditions of Jewish culture. [The first Christians were from the Jews only. They believed that Jesus was the Messiah that God had promised to them and yet they still obeyed all the rules of the Jewish religion.] When this problem brought to Jerusalem council the man who spoke and solved this issue was none other than James.

Acts 15: 12-29, 12 Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles. 13 And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, "Men and brethren, listen to me:

Few years later there were problem and again Apostle Paul went to James, this time it was because of false rumours about Apostle Paul saying that he was speaking ill about the Jewish

traditions and James advises him what he needs to do. **(Acts 21:17-**

26) Although Apostle Paul did as instructed by James it did not save him from the Jews.

It is believed that James was thrown out of the temple of Mount and yet he did not die someone then struck him with wood and his head was split and he died in AD 62.

Year of this Letter

1. The letter does not mention who are not Jewish
2. The Gentile become Christians after the persecution and murder of Stephen which made the believers to go to other countries (Acts 11:19) Which is about AD 45
3. Also there were troubles in Jerusalem which is mentioned in Acts 12: 1

Because of the above we can safely say this letter was written between AD42 to AD 44. This is one of the first letters written even before the Gospels were written.

Purpose

The first believers from Jewish

background were scattered through the region and they had gone to live in different countries. But neither the Apostles nor the Leaders went so James is writing to all those who have been dispersed how they ought to live as Christians and encouraging them.

If you believe in Christ then your life should reflect the way you live.

Main subject line of this letter is Faith and Work.

When the reformation took place in the early 15th Century many scholars were refuting to remove this book from the bible thinking that this letter advocates that you must work for your faith.

But what we need to understand is that your work does NOT save you.

But if you have faith in Lord Jesus Christ and if you do NOT have corresponding work in your life then your faith is not genuine.

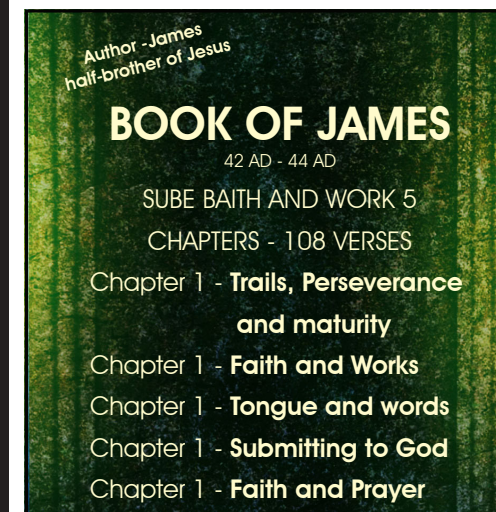
So whenever you read this letter please do not get confused thinking that our work will earn our place with God. Salvation is a free gift from God (Ephesians2:8) NONE can earn it!

When we say if we do NOT have the corresponding works then your

Chapters and verses

The book has five chapters and 108 verses in total.

Personally I have memorised the following verses from this book that is all the 17th verse of each chapter.



1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

2:17

Thous also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

4:17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

5:17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.

Now let us start our journey into the book of James.

Chapter 1:1, James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.

Out of the qualifications he chose to call himself as Bond servant He did not mention as half-brother of Jesus Christ,

He did not call himself as an Apostle,

He did not call himself as leader of Church in Jerusalem, He did not call himself as one of the leader or elder Not even as servant but as a bondservant! Or known as slave

Under Roman law, a bondservant was considered the owner's personal property. Slaves essentially had no rights and could even be killed with impunity by their owners.

We can see the similar pattern in Apostle Paul,

Romans 1:1, Galatians 1:10, Philippians 1:1 and Titus 1:1

How do we live as a believer in Christ?

As believers we should still consider ourselves as bondservants or slaves of Christ.

1 Corinthians 7:22; For he who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord's freedman. Likewise he who is called while free is Christ's slave

Ephesians 6:6; not with eye service, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart

2 Timothy 2:24, And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,

He is our Lord, and our allegiance is to Him alone. As bondservants, we renounce other masters Matthew 6:24, "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Give ourselves totally to Him as mentioned in Matthew 16:24, Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Being a bondservant of Christ is not a hard work because His "burden is light" (Matthew 11:30)

V 1:1, God and of the Lord Jesus Christ

Here James address as Jesus Christ as Lord, the Greek word used here is 'kyrios' means to whom a person or things belongs about which he has power of deciding master or Lord. Hebrew equivalent is 'Adonai'

So the brother of Jesus not only calls himself slave but he has lifted

Jesus as His master. V1:1, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad This is just straight forward from the history we know James was writing to the Jewish believers who were scattered across the countries.

Application for us today

Humility is the main virtue we can learn from James introduction. He even commands through the words of the Old Testament in his letter in chapter 4: 6

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

Not only James preached but he practiced it in his life, so let us learn to be humble so that God can give us more grace!!



TRIAL

James 1:2-4

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, **3** knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. **4** But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Discipline: training to act in accordance with rules; drill or punishment inflicted by way of correction and training.

Trial: a tentative or experimental action in order to ascertain results; experiment.

Test: A procedure intended to establish the quality, performance, or reliability of something, esp. before it is taken into widespread use.

Temptations: the act of tempting; enticement or allurement or something that tempts, entices, or allures.

Discipline comes from the one who loves you, God!

Trial or tests comes from outside towards you from God, Satan and World.

Temptation comes or arises within you

Am I being Disciplined, or in the midst of a Trial, or Am I being Tempted?

James here in this letter was writing to all the twelve tribes who have been scattered all over because of their faith, who have been persecuted and some of whom even lost their life, loved ones, material possession and had been were forced to flee. So his counsel and comfort to them as to how they can overcome when their faith is being tested.

Living Translation puts it like this,

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. 3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. 4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

So we know the trials will surely come, its only matter of 'when' not "if"

Our first reaction should be Joyful!!

To understand better when we send our children or when you

were growing up you went to school to learn and end up every term to face the exam they conduct to check the learning that they had achieved. We make sure that they studied and answer the entire question. The process to study and appear before the exam is not an easy thing. But we let them go through the process so that they are being tried to make sure their level of study improves every term.

Isaiah 43:1- 3, But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not,

for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.

2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you. 3 For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Saviour; I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place.

So every one of us will go through trials and may be you have

gone past one or is in the middle of one or maybe you are going to go into one.

Suggestionsto overcome trials

So what does James give a suggestion to overcome the trails?

1. Qualities Needed in Trials James 1:19 -20

19Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. 20 Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. (NLT)

He tells his brothers and sisters to talk less but hear more with God and with others. We tend to speak all kinds of things when we go through difficulty so his first advice is slow to speak. If one can't speak something good then better it's to keep quiet.

Remember what the Lord told the Israelites when they went to take over city of Jericho, asked them to keep their mouth shut for seven days.

Solomon wrote in his last Proverb 29:20 Do you see a man who is

hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him. (NASB)

2. Be quick to hear or Listen.

Listen to the word of God so that you will be built in faith. Romans 10:17, So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ. (NLT)

3. Be Slow to get angry

Anger will destroy the person; you won't be able to think straight in your anger. There are people angry with God and walk away and lose their blessings. You will lose your peace as well.

Ephesians 4: 26-27, "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold.

Proverbs 16:32, He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city. (NASB)

4. Gives an example of a person who had gone before us so that we can learn from him. James 5:10

10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the

Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord— that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

So we got to learn to persevere in trails. Just for a moment look at the life of Job yet in all his trials he overcome them by faith in God same way we ought to have faith in God during our trials.

Apostle Peter writes in his epistle, 1 Peter 1:6-7,

So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. 7 These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honour on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

So once again let us look at What James says about it, James 1:2-4 2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith producespatience. 4 But let

patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

So be Joyful when you go through trials (we know Romans 8:28) Your faith is tested and when it's tested you are being patient since you know the end result.

When you develop patience and persevere in the trials then you will be perfect and lacking nothing.

Paul writes to the church in Rome going through severe trials of their faith in Romans 5:3-5,

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. 4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. 5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. (NLT)

So let us have the boldness to face each and every trial with JOY!! So that God can do His perfect work in us making us perfect for His work without lacking anything.



3

WISDOM

James 1:5-8

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

First we need to understand that James is writing this letter to the persecuted scattered Christians who are going through great trials. He is writing to them to encourage that they should take this trials as great opportunity to rejoice.

It's not easy to face the trials with joy unless you have the wisdom from God. So here James is asking them to ask for more wisdom if any of you lack wisdom. Every one of you have got wisdom but you ask for more if you lack!!

Wisdom: Defined as the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgement; the quality of being wise.

Knowledge: is "information gained through experience, reasoning, or acquaintance." (In the car you know what is the function of brake pedal, accelerator lights etc.)

Understanding: the ability to understand something; comprehension. Connecting these acquired knowledge is understanding.

Wisdom: Is using the knowledge or the application of the knowledge and understanding Experience of applying the



knowledge makes you wiser.
(in the Car applying the break at
the right time)

Two kinds of Wisdom:
Earthly Wisdom and Heavenly

Earthly Wisdom

James 3:13-16 Who is wise and
understanding among you?
Let him show by good conduct
that his works are done in the
meekness of wisdom.

14 But if you have bitter envy and
self-seeking in your hearts, do not
boast and lie against the truth.

15 This wisdom does not descend
from above, but is earthly,
sensual, demonic.

16 For where envy and self-
seeking exist, confusion and every
evil thing are there.

We can acquire wisdom from the
world which is demonic in nature,
which is always working against

God.

1. Source: It is from Earth

1 Corinthians 1:20, Where is the
wise? Where is the scribe? Where
is the disputer of this age? Has not
God made foolish the wisdom of
this world?

This wisdom comes from worldly
experience and according to
world's standards. It's led by the
emotions. The source is from
demon!!

2. The nature of this wisdom is sensual

It's full of bitter, envy and self-
seeking is the centre of their
heart. It will boast about

Power,

Position &

Privilege.

3. The fruit of the earthly wisdom can be seen in

Greatest fruit of this wisdom is
'confusion' and as per James
3:16, every evil things.

- Confusion
- Every evil thing separation
from God

Heavenly Wisdom

James 3:17-18,

But the wisdom that is from above
is first pure, then peaceable,
gentle, willing to yield, full of
mercy and good fruits, without
partiality and without hypocrisy.
18 Now the fruit of righteousness
is sown in peace by those who
make peace.

1. Source: From God James 1:17,

Every good gift and every perfect
gift is from above, and comes
down from the Father of lights,
with whom there is no variation or
shadow of turning.

2. You can receive it by Prayer

James 1:5-8 We need to ask God
if we lack wisdom.

3. Nature

It's Pure and doing the will of God

Peaceable: Romans 12:18, If it is
possible, as much as depends on
you, live peaceably with all men.

Ephesians 4:15, but, speaking the
truth in love, may grow up in all
things into Him who is the head—
Christ—

Gentle: 2 Timothy 2:24-25,



And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

Willing to Yield: (without compromising the truth)

Romans 14:1, Receive one

who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things.

Romans 14:19-21, Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify

another.²⁰ Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the

man who eats with offense. 21 It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.

Full of Mercy: James 2:13, For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Be quick to forgive others

Good fruits: James 1:22, But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. James 2:26, For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Without Partiality: James 2:1-13, We will study this as a separate lesson later in this book.

Without Hypocrisy: No acting but living the truth. One of the hardest sin Jesus preached about is Hypocrisy next to pride, which is acting holy when you are not. It is to please

God not to men.

4. Fruit:
• Produces Peace not confusion Gives us the righteousness not evil thing

Learning from King Solomon

What can we learn from the wisest man lived on the earth apart from Jesus?

King Solomon

Proverbs 3:13, Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding;

Proverbs 24:13-14, My son, eat honey because it is good,

And the honeycomb which is sweet to your taste; 14 So shall the knowledge of wisdom be to your soul; If you have found it, there is a prospect, And your hope will not be cut off.

Proverbs 9:10, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And

the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

How did King Solomon acquire this Wisdom?

1 Kings 3:5-9, At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?"

6 And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. 7 Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do

not know how to go out or come in. 8 And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. 9 Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between

good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

God not only granted wisdom but riches, honour and wisdom.

Where did King Solomon learn to ask God for Wisdom?

Proverbs 4: 3-7 When I was my father's son, Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother, 4 He also taught me, and said to me: "Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live. 5 Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. 6 Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you. 7 Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.

How do we get this Wisdom?

Deuteronomy 4:6, Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the

sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.

In the Old Testament observing the law you will become wise. But in the New Covenant having Christ is the wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians 1:30, But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—

Proverbs 8:12, "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And find out knowledge and discretion.

1 Corinthians 1:24, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Colossians 2:2-3, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding,

to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Let us pray this pray this prayer over us in declaring that,

Ephesians 1:17, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, Amen!

Temptation

James 1:12-18

4

12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. 18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures.

Discipline: training to act in accordance with rules; drill or punishment inflicted by way of correction and training.

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Temptations: the act of tempting; enticement or allurements or something that tempts, entices, or allures.

Discipline comes from the one who loves you, **God!**

Trial or tests comes from outside towards you from God, Satan and World.

Temptation comes or arises within you

Am I being Disciplined, or in the midst of a Trial, or Am I being Tempted?



How and why are we Tempted?

i) Your own evil desires pull you into temptation. Self-satisfying and selfishness is the key for all kinds of sin. We don't have teach our children to be selfish but to them we need to teach to be generous. Look at a one year old baby who is unwilling to share his toys with another one. None taught them that yet they do that.

James 1:14-16, 14 But we

are tempted when we are drawn away and trapped by our own evil desires. 15 Then our evil desires conceive and give birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. 16 Do not be deceived, my dear friends! (GNT)

1 John 2:16, Everything that belongs to the world—what the sinful self desires, what people see and want, and everything in this world that people are so proud of—none of this comes from the Father; it all comes

from the world. (TLV)

That's why we are commanded to live according to the spirit not according to the flesh or physical life. Once you set your mind on the things of the earth then we lose the focus completely.

Romans 8:5-6, For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

ii) The love of money and

wanting to be rich 1Timothy 6:9, But people who want to get rich keep falling into temptation. They are trapped by many stupid and harmful desires, which drown them in destruction and ruin. (GW) Almost all the mega lottery winners

Ask Yourself	Discipline	Trials/Tests	Temptations
Who is the Source?	The Lord	God, Satan, world	Self, Satan
What is the Reason?	My Disobedience	Following God	Exposure & pride
How should I Respond?	Make Light,	Shrink back	Fall into
What is the result?	Fear and Holiness	Death and Glory	Sin (or) Victory
What is the reward?	Eternal	Eternal	Eternal

are in handout of the government, why? There are many people lose their life and health trying to make money. There is a famous story a person spends all his life chasing the money not focusing on his

family and health and after he massed wealth only to find himself spending all the money on his health and trying to manage his family.

So many mental health problems because of people trying to become rich.

iii) **The enemy, Satan tries to tempt you to fail in your faith**

1Thessalonians 3:5, That is why I had to send Timothy. I could not bear it any longer, so I sent him to find out about your faith. Surely it could not be that the Devil had tempted you and all our work had been for nothing! (GNT)

Luke 22:32, But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith will not fail. And when you turn back to me, you must strengthen your brothers. (NLT)

iv) **God is NOT the source of Temptation**

James 1:13, A man must not say when he is tempted, "God is tempting me." For God has no dealings with evil, and does not himself tempt anyone. No, a man's temptation is due to the pull of his own inward desires, which can be enormously attractive. (Philips)

How do we overcome temptations?

Jesus while He lived on the earth he was tempted yet without sin. So temptation is NOT a sin but yielding to it is a sin.

Hebrews 4:15, For we do not have a High Priest



who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. (NKJV)

1. **Submit yourself to God.**

James 4:7, Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (NKJV)

Romans 6:11-13, So consider yourselves dead to sin's power but living for God in the power Christ Jesus gives you. **12** Therefore, never let sin rule your physical body so that you obey its desires. **13** Never offer any part of your body to sin's power. No part of your body should ever be used to do any ungodly thing. Instead, offer yourselves to God as people who have come back from death and are now alive. Offer all the parts of your body to God. Use them to do everything that God approves of. (GW)

Galatians 5:16, I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

2. **Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus**

Hebrews 4:15, For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.(NKJV)

Hebrews 2:18, And now He can help those who are tempted, because He Himself suffered and was tempted. (NCV)

Colossians 3:2, Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. (NKJV)



3. Be filled in His Words!

Psalms 119:11, Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. (NKJV)

When Jesus tempted on three occasions He quotes, as it is written. (Matthew 4:4, 7 &11)

4. Pray so that you will not fall into Temptation

Matthew 26:41, Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!" (NLT)

Matthew 6:13, And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one. (NLT)

Luke 9:23, He said to all of them, "Those who want to come with me must say no to the things they want, pick up their crosses every day, and follow me. (GW)

5. Don't give a foothold to Satan

1 Corinthians 7:5, Marriage is a decision to serve the other, whether in bed or out. Abstaining from sex is permissible for a period of time if you both agree to it, and if it's for the purposes of prayer and fasting—but only for such times. Then come back together again. Satan has an ingenious way of tempting us when we least expect it. (Message)

Ephesians 4:26, And don't stay angry. Don't go to bed angry. Don't give the Devil that kind of foothold in your life. (Message)

Conclusion & Comfort

1 Corinthians 10:13, But remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it. (NLT)

PERSPECTIVE



5

Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, 10 but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. 11 For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.

When we have wisdom, which is Jesus Christ then your perspective about life changes. You no longer measure anyone in the worlds standards rather Gods.

James wants to encourage poor people whom they trust God that they may feel they are rich in Christ Jesus. Because their hope and trust is in

future for God. They may not have the wealth as per the worlds view. They can have the satisfaction that they are rich in God.

2 Corinthians 8:9,

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

Is it wrong to have riches? Perspective

There is a wrong notion in the Christendom today, if someone is rich that means he is not a Christian. If someone is poor then they think they are holy. Both are wrong.

There is no problem in having riches but there is a problem when riches start having you. You having money

isn't a problem but money having you is a problem.

Can you have money and still serve the Lord?

Can you be in poverty and still serve the Lord?

Yes, both are possible as long as you know your calling and your purpose. But in most cases the prosperity without purpose has ruined many people lives.

Also as a New Covenant believers we need to understand clearly that world wealth is not an indication that its god's blessings. In the Old Covenant yes, wealth was considered as blessings from the Lord. But in the New Covenant the blessings of the Lord are eternal not earthly.

Old Covenant blessings are Earthly New Covenant Blessings are eternal

Without realising many Bible believing Christians fall into the trap thinking that being wealthy in earth is blessings from the Lord, this erroneous teaching has brought out prosperity Gospel and which lead many people to destruction.

Jesus was not rich while he was on the earth and none of disciples, even after His resurrection Jesus did not make any of his disciples a millionaire!!

1. We are all created in Gods image.

Both poor and rich and all have been created in the image of God. Immaterial whether you are rich or poor but God gives you wealth so that His name can be glorified. All human beings are created in His image.

2. God is the source of all blessings.

Everything comes from God and He is the source of all.

1 Corinthians 4:7, For what gives you the right to make such a judgment? What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if everything you have is from God, why boast as though it were not a gift? (NLT)

We have received everything from God as a gift!! People don't realise that the very life we have received is gift from God.

3. Your position is from God We are all created by God for His good work.

Ephesians 2:10, For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Daniel 4:20-21, Daniel answered

and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. 21 And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding.

4. God's purpose for each one of us is unique

God creates few people for noble purpose and few for ordinary purposes, we do not have the right to question and ask why have you done this?

Daniel 4: 34-35,

And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honoured Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. 35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"

Romans 9:20-21,

But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?"²¹ Does not the potter have power over

the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honour and another for dishonour?

2 Timothy 2: 20-21,

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honour and some for dishonour. 21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honour, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

So whatever position you hold and where you are is from God. Be faithful to what God has called you to do.

Remember the parable of talents in Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus gives one person 5 another person 2 and one accordingly. When He judges them only on one merit that's whether they are good and faithful.

So here James tells his Jewish brothers who are scattered going through trials for their faith. Many of them lost their property and their possession and were living a very poor life. To them he says you guys exalt in your poverty that you are going to be rich in the other side of eternity.

James 1:9 The brother who is poor may be glad because God has called him to the true riches. (Phillips)

Because the true riches are in heaven so they ought to live with the same hope.

When it comes to the rich he says be humble in your riches. Because the riches are not permanent.

James 1:10, But a rich man should be happy even if he loses everything. He is like a flower that will die. (NLT)

So the rich man should humble himself and also be happy when he loses everything because his eternal life and eternal values are more important than earthly life.

Matthew 6:19-21,

"Do not store up for yourselves

treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (NASB)

Jesus commanded that we should store up our wealth in heaven not here, so if you are rich use your riches to store up in heaven.

As you can see many rich people who were once rich today they are no longer there. In our own life every one of you have witnessed people who have lost their wealth. There has been a survey about the big lottery winners over 20 Million and almost 21 of them who won the lottery they are all in benefits now! They are living in government pay outs!!

James 1:11,

For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.

The wealth is temporal, James compares with flowers which

bloom in the grass, they are weeds. They don't last longer since he lived in Jerusalem he knew the summer very well and the hot air comes through from the southern sea like we have in London.

Notice the last phrase in his pursuits; the rich people are not satisfied with their wealth they end up pursuing more and more.

1 Timothy 6:10,

For the love of money is a root of

all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Money is not the problem but the love of it is the problem. Once you start pursuing the riches then you will shipwreck your faith and following God.

2 Timothy 3:1-2,

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Jesus was very categorical when it comes to following God and money.

Luke 16:13, "No servant can serve two masters. The servant will hate one master and love the other, or will follow one master and refuse to follow the other. You cannot serve both God and worldly riches." (NCV)

How do we live?

1 Timothy 6:17-19,

17 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

So we should not pursue and trust the riches but pursue the Living God!

Let me encourage you with this scripture as conclusion.

Philippians 4:11-13, Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry,

both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

HEARER OR DOER?

6

James 1:21-25

21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a

man observing his natural face in a mirror;

24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

First receive the Word with meekness

Meekness is not weakness Dictionary defines as 'having or showing a quiet and gentle nature : not wanting to fight or argue with other people'

In biblical usage, meekness means gentleness, caring, lack of contentiousness.

Matthew 5:5, Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
2 Corinthians 10:1(a) By the meekness and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you -- I, Paul,
John 13:5, Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

Luke 23:34, Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know

what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. Word should be implanted!

Word of God should be implanted not just heard.

If you go to hear a lecture of certain subject, you hear them and believe it's true. But then it doesn't alter the way you live. But the Word of God is living and active and can't be like any other lecture. It's got to be implanted into your hearts.

Pharisees are the best example for having the knowledge about God but yet not knowing the Lord.

They had spent their entire life time to study and preach the scriptures of the coming Messiah but yet when He came they missed it completely.

What is the difference between hearing some other word and the Word of God?

Other hearing should give us the head knowledge but word of God should not.

Head knowledge produces information. Heart knowledge brings transformation. 1 Corinthians 8:1,

Now, concerning food offered to false gods: We know that we

all have knowledge. Knowledge makes people arrogant, but love builds them up.

A good example would be say if you hear someone's financial difficulties but at that point you are either unwilling to help or genuinely do not have the means to help. But the thought persists in your mind.

But however when you hear about the need again you expect others to help, judging why they haven't done anything about it whilst you haven't done anything either!!

James gives us another wonderful example of seeing yourself in the mirror.

You see yourself in the light as the mirror the word of God. What do you see?

What are the flaws and sins you see in YOU?

How will you rectify them?

Often people are trying to correct the flaws in the Mirror not in the person. Sounds familiar?

So when we hear we are commanded to do what it says, if not what will

happen?

You will be deceiving yourself!!

When self-deception comes who can save you?

Word of God is meant to change you Psalms 119:11 and John 17:17. You can come to our church and sit under the preaching for years together but if you never allow that truth to change you then you are deceiving yourself. You can read the bible from cover to cover and know the verses and if you do not put the words into practice into your life you are just simply deceiving yourself.

This kind of deception you will find among the people who are portraying themselves as religious people, who have gained the true knowledge about God in their minds and think that knowing them is enough. Bible knowledge should not produce more theologians but transformed people.

2 Timothy 3:17, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

From the above it's very clear that having the truth in your mind is not character changing or portraying God in your life.

Let me give you couple of

examples of self-deception of knowing God yet does not portray it in their life.
Samson

Samson was one of the mighty men of Israel anointed by God. He was fooling with Delilah many times and thinking that he is safe. In the end he disclosed his secret to Delilah who betrays him to the enemies as he was sleeping. The enemies came and cut his hair and not knowing when she calls him saying that the Philistines are upon you. Samson awakes as usual thinking that he will shake of the enemies like before not knowing the Lord had left him. Judges 16:20. I am sure while he was grinding the mill he must have learnt that he deceived himself in a very hard way.

Builder of the house

In Luke 6:46-49, Jesus taught us the difference between a "doer" and a "non-doer":

"But why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say? Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when

the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.

"But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."

The difference between success and failure is in our ability to hear and to do.

Two builders are building the house the result are different when they finish. The one who built on the solid foundation is one who hears the word of Christ and built it. The other builder is built it without foundation. Only Jesus knows the way ahead for us, and if we choose to ignore what He says to us then we are setting ourselves up for failure and disaster ahead. For the follower of Jesus there is no other "final authority" than what He says.

Jesus makes it clear that "storms" will and do come beating against every one of us at some time or another. There is no escaping that. How we weather the storms is all



dependent upon our ability to "hear and obey Jesus!"

So where is your house of life is being built?

On the solid foundation of Lord Jesus Christ? Or on your own?

So here James was urging the

Jewish believers to know that their life should reflect what they believe in.

Finally, when Jesus wrote letters to the seven Churches, the final letter sent to church in Laodicea. The leaders of the church convinced in themselves that everything is all right within them.

Revelation 3:17, 'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,

Let us examine ourselves today not the other churches, if Jesus writes letter to us, what and how will He write??

So how do you avoid this self-deception,

James 1:25, But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty

and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

Remembering the Word,

Doing the Word, and Continuing in the Word

This is what changes character and counters self-delusion. Like a mirror, the Word of God will always show us the truth.

Will you obey?

7

TAMING THE TONGUE

If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. 27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

James 3:1- 12,

My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

3 Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body.

4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. 5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity.

The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. 8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we

curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.

10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

11 Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening?

12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

First and foremost, if you don't control your tongue then your religion is useless. Not only your religion is useless but you will be deceiving yourself.

Remember the last lesson James warned that we will end up deceiving ourselves, here is the second time he is warning them that they should be careful about deception.

Contradiction is that you show your faith by visiting the orphans and widows in their trouble. How you control your tongue will determine what kind of Christian life you will lead!

In James 3:2 he writes to his brothers who are scattered saying that we ALL stumble!

Not in few things but MANY things!!

Me personally as a leader in our church I regret many things that I spoke sometime in a place where I should not have been. I am learning still!!

My experience with speaking without controlling my tongue had caused many pains to me and to others. I am growing more and more but one thing I certainly say I am progressing in my walk with the Lord.

Every time I read this section of scripture it causes me to have fear of God to tremble a little. My discipline will be greater than the average Christian because I am a teacher

of the Bible. Every passing day I am beginning to see the awesome and great responsibility of being a teacher of the Holy Scriptures.

You must have learnt in your life the things you should not have told to the person whom you had told!

James Gives three examples which can illustrate how we can tame our tongue.



1. Horses are tamed by the bits in their mouth.



2. Ships are controlled by rudder.



3. Entire Forest Fire caused by a small flame



So how we ought to be careful in manage to control our

tongue.

“But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.” (Matthew 12:36).

The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. 8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

Your whole body can be defiled by your tongue, see how important it is?

Jesus taught us in Matthew 15:11 Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.”

Our tongue always shows off what we really are.

What does your tongue reveal about you?

Patient and longsuffering Kind
Bearing all things
Hoping all things

Enduring all things
Rejoicing in the truth
Is your tongue showing that:
Taming the Tongue
You are not rude
You are not puffed up
You are not jealous
You are not provoked
You are thinking no evil thoughts

If you go to doctor for your sickness first they say show your tongue, same way if you are a Christian show your tongue!!

Men have tamed every kind of creature: birds, beast, serpents, and creatures of the sea.

James goes on to say that your tongue can not be used for both purposes. Here he gives two other examples so that his readers can understand. James 3:9-12,

With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear

figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh. How can you bless and curse with the same tongue?

You don't have to be prophet to be blessing and cursing, every word is precious.

When no one is around,

How do you speak with your spouse?

How do you speak with your children?

How do you speak about others?

Your words can change people destiny.

Whether they are known to you or not. Why?

Everyone is created in the image of God and whether they know God or not but we should speak as if we are speaking to our loved ones.

First example:
A spring cannot give salt and sweet water at the same time. Either it can give a sweet water or salt water.

Second example:
Fig tree cannot produce Olives. Same way Grapevine can't bear figs. The trees can produce only their kind of fruits.

Luke 6:45,

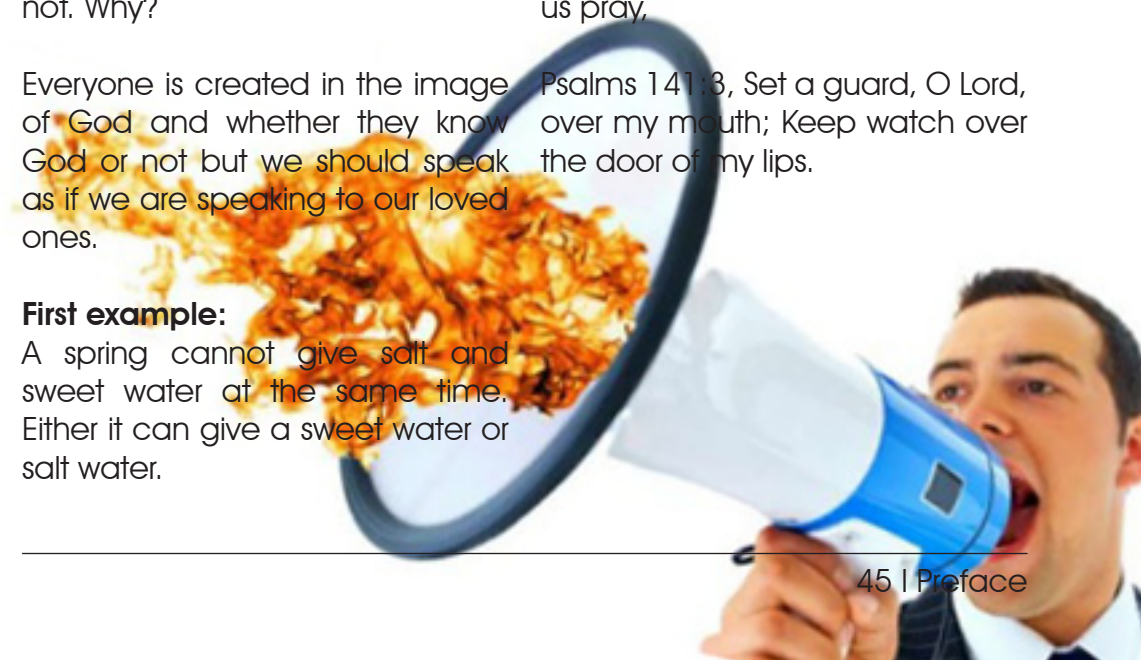
A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

How do we manage this?
Psalm 39:1,

I said, "I will guard my ways, Lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle, While the wicked are before me."

Let us pray as Psalmist prayed let us pray,

Psalms 141:3, Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.





Partiality - Favouritism - Discrimination

27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this:

to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality.

2 For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes,

3 and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man,

"You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool,"

4 have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

6 But you have dishonoured the

poor man.

Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts?

7 Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?

8 If you really fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself," you do well;

9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

11 For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

12 So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.

13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

In this lesson we will not be able to cover the entire portion but we will look at the main subject of partiality or personal Favouritism or discrimination based upon the look.

We will link with the last verse which we studied in the last lesson of visiting the poor, orphans and widows which is the pure religion. This is not religion which the world attempts but it's the undefiled pure religion before God and the Father.

Partiality

The portion scriptures combine the partiality with judgement. So we cannot separate partiality and judgement.

There is one attribute of God that is totally neglected in the churches is that there is no partiality in HIM. When we think about God we think of His justice, Wisdom, Omnipotent, Omnipresence, Omniscience and Unchanging. We talk about His Love, Grace, Mercy, Faithfulness, Eternity and His Sovereignty.

But God is totally impartial to anyone and God treats every one of us the same way. But we unlike God treat people based on

their looks, cars they drive, status and most of all their outward appearance. These things have no bearing before God and it doesn't mean a thing before God.

When James wrote to his Jewish brothers who are scattered they knew their Old Testament bible very well, they did not have the New Testament like what we have today in our hands. So let us take a journey to understand what they knew and How James is reminding them.

Exodus 23:3, You shall not show partiality to a poor man in his dispute.

Exodus 23:6, "You shall not pervert the judgment of your poor in his dispute.

Leviticus 19:15, "You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbour.

Deuteronomy 1:17, You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small as well as the great; you shall not be afraid in any man's presence, for the judgment is God's. The case that is too hard

for you, bring to me, and I will hear it.'

Deuteronomy 16:19
You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.

Deuteronomy 10:17,
For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe.

What a wonderful verse it talks about the attributes of what a great and awesome mighty God we have then it says in Him there is no partiality.

New Testament mentions in many places that there should not be any partiality among us. Peter and Paul when they wrote in their epistle their focus on partiality were on the issue of Salvation, and mostly on the spiritual issues. Paul does mention about employee status in Ephesians 6 and Colossians 3.

James in this letter focuses only on the outward appearance such as social and economic status.



Favoured	Unfavoured
Good Points highlighted	Good points ignored
Bad points ignored	Bad points highlighted
Rarely blamed	Rarely credited
Like	Dislike
Given the liked role	Given the unlike role
Strong sense of belonging	Weak sense of belonging
Rewarded	Punished

What we don't speak about in our church James is speaking.

Let me ask you a question, do you show partiality? In the world everyone shows partiality.

How will they react when they encounter a famous personality? We are a selfie generation!!

How do you show partiality in the church?

How we receive the wealthy businessman into the church? Several wealthy women helped to provide for the needs of the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. Luke 18:1-3. So the problem is not wealth or wealthy person but

how we receive and how we treat people.

What impresses you?

- ▶▶ The car they drive
- ▶▶ Their wealth or the house they live in
- ▶▶ The dress they wear
- ▶▶ Their education
- ▶▶ Their social standing
- ▶▶ Their jewellery

Imagine a famous personality from some walk of life sit right next to you in the church how will you react?

Imagine when a very shabby dressed person sitting next to you in the church how will you react?

Personally when you ask this question some very uncomfortable truth may come out!!

James puts it across Lord Jesus Christ as the Lord of Glory. How will God treat them?

God isn't impressed with any of those qualifications or wealth it's absolutely nothing before Him. God judges your worth and mine and everyone in this world only based upon who we are internally. As Isaiah 2:22, Stop regarding man, whose breath of life is in his nostrils; For why should he be esteemed? (NASB)

So James suggest 2 things one do not treat a wealthy man give him honour because he is rich and secondly do not despise and treat the poor badly because of his poverty. Learnt to treat both of them equally as God would treat them.

How the favouritism can be identified?

Why do you show favouritism?

1. May be you are looking for some favour in return
2. Because they are known to have higher connection

3. Simply human like and dislike

The effect of partiality could be very devastating, especially if a leader shows some favour to a small group of people then the whole organisation will be in deep trouble. If a small number of people are being favoured based upon the race, language, colour, gender etc., the vast number of people are going to be unhappy. In the church it has got a very bad impact especially if the pastor has his own favoured man to do main things.

Leaders of groups need to resist the temptation to use favouritism as a short-cut for leadership. James goes on to tell them that the pitfall of treating the rich favourably.

V6, It's the rich who oppress you

V6 it's the rich who takes you to the court and land you in trouble.

V7, it's the rich who dishonour you and blaspheme the name of God.

So in other words in the church both the leader and the poor get into trouble because of the rich.

We have witnessed many wealthy people who have ruined the churches?

V5, James says that it's the poor God had chosen them since they are very rich in faith and theirs is the Kingdom of God.

In the last lesson we saw that we should be careful in using our tongue, with the same tongue we can't bless and curse people who are made in the image of God. The same way in this lesson we are commanded not to judge someone based on their outer appearance.

God told Samuel when he went to anoint the next king for Israel not to judge by the appearance and God made him to choose David who was a shepherd boy even his father didn't even bother to call him to be present.

1 Samuel 16:7, But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

As a church how are we doing in this area?

If Jesus walks into our church will HE feel at home?

One of the commandment most of the Christians don't even bother follow what the Lord Jesus told us to do.

John 7:24, Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."
Matthew 7:1-5,

"Do not judge others, and you will not be judged.

2 For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the



standard by which you will be judged.

3 "And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own?"

4 How can you think of saying to your friend, 'Let me help you get

rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye?"

5 Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye. (NLT)

Summary of the scriptures of this portion

V1, Partiality contradicts that your faith Jesus Christ as the Lord of Glory.

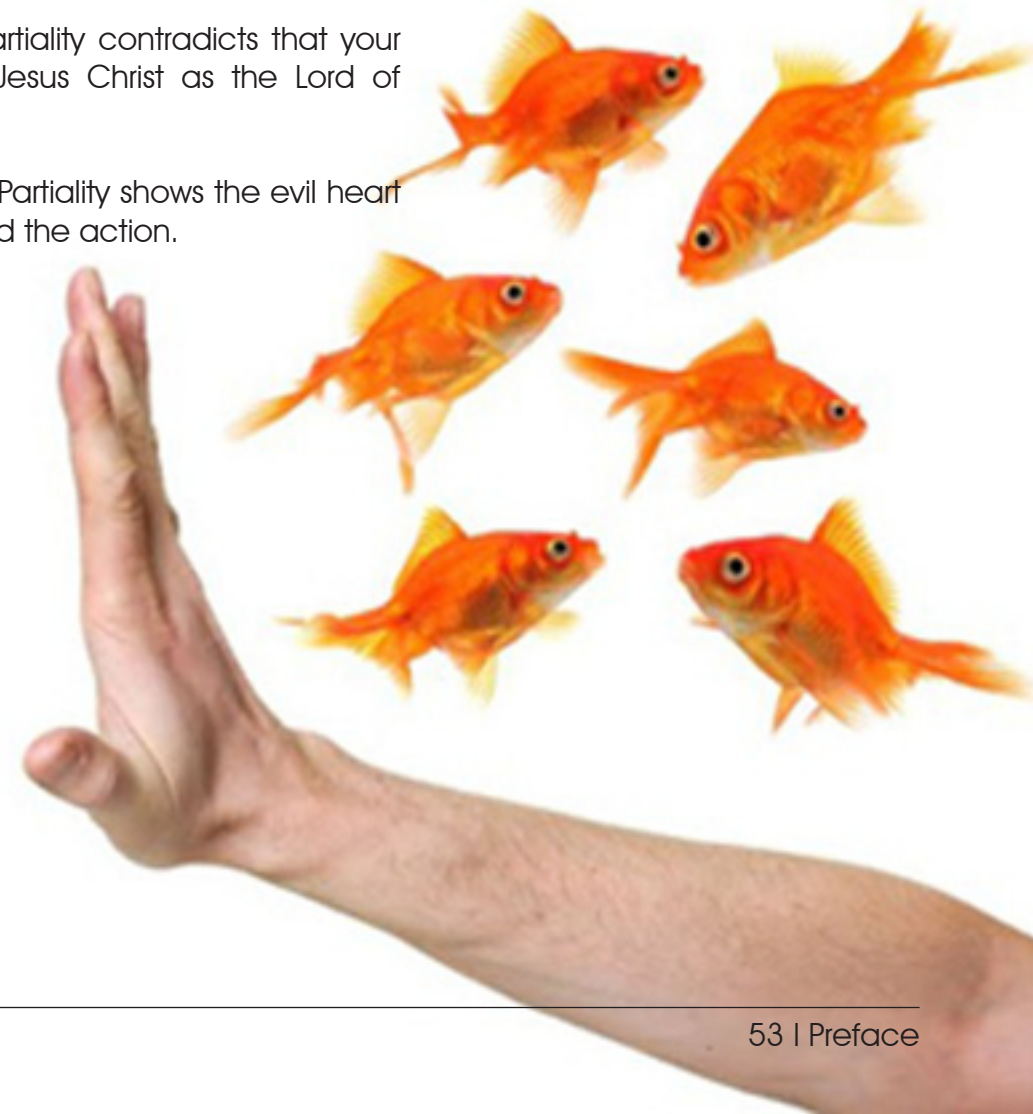
V2-4, Partiality shows the evil heart behind the action.

V5, Partiality shows that God has chosen the poor.

V6, Partiality dishonours people who are created in the image of God.

V6, Partiality brings your downfall

V9, Partiality makes you sinner



MERCY & JUDGEMENT

James 2:8- 2:13

9

yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. 11 For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.12 So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

James 3:1, Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly.

James 4:11-12, 11 Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you. 12 God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge

8 If you really fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself," you do well; 9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and

your neighbour?

In the last lesson we looked in detail about the partiality. What drives us to be partial? Is it not because we are judgemental with our eyes and the mouth utters the word?



First let us look at what is Mercy and Grace:

Mercy: God is not punishing our sins what we deserve.

Grace: God is blessing us that we do NOT deserve

Mercy is deliverance from judgment. Grace is extending kindness to the unworthy person like us. Mercy deals with our past and Grace enables us to live a Holy life and Hope is the future of His eternal life with the Almighty.

We all have sinned! No flesh can boast before God that they are right to stand before Him.

Romans 3:23, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

1 John 1:8, If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

We all deserve punishment the

eternal hell and burning in the lake of fire.

Romans 6:23, For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Revelation 20:12-15, And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened.

And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them.

And they were judged, each one according to his works.

14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

This is why the people prayed and pleaded for mercy of God to escape this punishment which can be summarized wonderfully by the prayer of David in Psalms 51: 1-2 , Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.

God answered the cry of the heart and send Jesus to the cross and HE was crucified for our sins.

Isaiah 53: 5-6, But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities;

The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Titus 2:14, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

1 John 1:9, If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

So NONE of us deserve the life what we have but by the mercies of our



Lord.
Hence we have received such a mercy should not be our responsible for us show the same kind of mercy to another?

John 8, Women caught in the adultery.

Deuteronomy 22:22 says both must die but they brought only one person. Where was he?

Did you hear what Jesus said? This woman's guilt was real. She committed the crime of adultery. God, through Moses, commanded her death.

But God the Son of God simply said, "Neither do I condemn you."

How could HE possibly say that to her? If God violates HIS own commandment, we have a huge problem. Is God unjust?

Absolutely not!

God fully intended for this sin of adultery to be punished to the full extent of HIS law. But she would not bear her punishment. She would

go free. The Son of Man would be punished for her.

Jesus was the only one in the crowd that who could, in perfect righteousness, require the woman's death. And HE was the only one who could, in perfect righteousness, pardon her.

This is what James writing to his brothers who are scattered everywhere.

MERCY TRIUMPHS
OVER JUDGEMENT!!

Let me give you the following verse in the old paraphrased version of the Bible by William Tyndale.

James 2:12, You will be judged on whether or not you are doing what Christ wants you to. So watch you do and what you think:

James 3:1, Dear brothers, don't be too eager to tell others their faults, for as all make many mistakes; and when we teachers, who should know better, do wrong, our punishment will be greater than it would be for others.

From this text it is very clear that that we ought not to judge someone. What we need to find the balance between judging someone and correcting someone. We have also commanded by Lord Jesus that we ought to do righteous judgement.

John 7:24, Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

As we have seen in the previous lesson this is the commandment many Christians do not follow. When Apostle Paul writes to the church in Rome he was particular

that they are judging one another because of their background. As we know that Jew and Gentile believers were holding their traditions in higher standard and despising the other.

Romans 2:1-4, You may think you can condemn such people, but you are just as bad, and you have no excuse! When you say they are wicked and should be punished, you are condemning yourself, for you who judge others do these very same things.

2 And we know that God, in his justice, will punish anyone who



does such things.

3 Since you judge others for doing these things, why do you think you can avoid God's judgment when you do the same things?

4 Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?

So we ought to see the fruits of their works in everyday life which will be evident in their life. Apostle Paul puts it across in his epistle to Timothy

1 Timothy 5:24-25, Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later. 25 Likewise, the good works of some are clearly evident, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden. Then how do I live my life?

2 Thessalonians 3:6, But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.

The word of God says you got to withdraw from such persons who are walking disorderly.

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15, And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. 15 Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

But though you do not walk closer with him but do NOT treat him as an enemy. God's word commands us to bless those who curse us and love our enemies. There are some people who are not able with the Lord because of some addictions.

They may be struggling to get rid of them so your kind actions and words can bring them to the Lord. Judging is to be done only God!!

James 4:11-12, Don't criticize and speak evil about each other, dear brothers. If you do, you will be fighting against God's law of loving one another, declaring it is wrong. But your job is not to decide whether this law is right or wrong but to obey it. 12. Only He who made the law can rightly judge among us. He alone decides to save us or destroy, So what right do you have to judge or criticize others?

God is the one who gave us everything

Romans 14: 1-4, Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. 2 For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. 3 Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does

not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him.

4 Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

God only can judge us as too!



James 2:14- 2:26

FAITH & WORKS

14

What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? ¹⁵Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing,¹⁶and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat

well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?

¹⁷So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

¹⁸Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds."

¹⁹You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. ²⁰How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless?

²¹Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²²You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete.

²³And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." He was even called the friend of God.

²⁴So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone.

²⁵Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road.

²⁶Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works. (NLT)

This lesson is the most talked about in the book of James and brought many controversies in the Christendom.

First of all, we all need to understand that James is not advocating that your works saves you. Also he is not saying that your works will save you. This is very important to understand the context in which he is writing this letter.

V 18, Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds." Here he is not saying that he will show the good deeds alone but good deeds with faith.

So if you say you have faith then you should exhibit your faith with corresponding good works.

The reason is that none can know by looking at you whether you are Christian or not? I am not talking about the outward appearance like wearing a cross or, T-shirt, or fish symbol on your car. In fact those kind of people have sadly damaged the Christendom a great deal. Any one can say when someone comes to you with

hunger to go and eat well. Any one can say when someone comes to you without clothes you can simply say go and dress up well.

Any one can say when someone is feeling cold go stay and keep yourself warm.

But what matters is what do you actually do when you see a need like that will determine whether you have faith in God or not!!

V19, James compares

Satan with those who merely hearing the words without relating works in their life.

Satan not only believes there is one God and also he trembles at His word. Does that make him a believer?

Mere believing and professing is not the real faith but it got to be proven with the works.

Gives two examples:

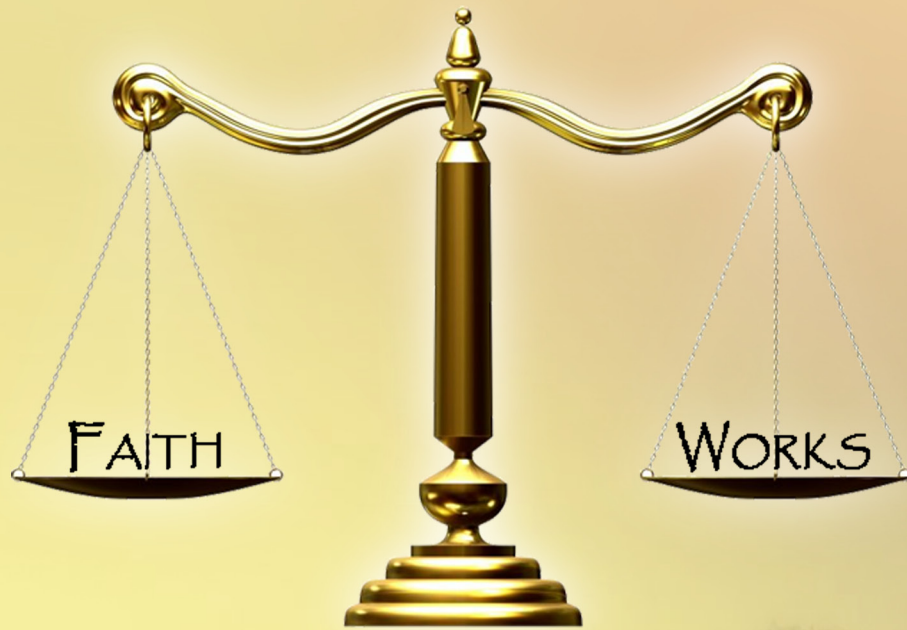
1. Abraham Offering

Isaac in the alter of God

2. Rahab the prostitute helping the spies
Finally, James says

if you don't have faith and works then you must be dead.

How about you?
Can someone say that you must be Christian by your active works done through faith or just by simply you going to church?



PRIDE

10

& Jealousy

Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? ²You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. ⁴Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

⁵Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"? ⁶But He

gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." ⁷Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

James takes his letter to another level by pointing out what are things that should be avoided to be humble and not jealous. Remember this letter was written to the scattered Christians from

Jerusalem to everywhere.

The primary source of all your problems is within your members of your body.

V1. What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Isn't it because there is a whole army of evil desires within you? Covetousness is the matter of heart this is why in the Old Covenant you can keep the nine but not the tenth one.

All the other commandments were external but the tenth one is internal the hearts attitude. Apostle Paul details his struggle in keeping up the commandments and the failures in Romans

chapter 7. Finally he concludes that only Jesus can deliver him from all these lustful things.

V2, You want what you don't have so you kill to get it. You long for what others have, and can't afford it, so you start a fight to take it away from them.

And yet the reason you don't have what you wants is that you don't ask God for it.

Lust of the eyes. Genesis 3:6, When the woman

saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

This is why God gave the commandment in Exodus 20:17, "You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbour."

Every advertisement is just enticing you that what they have is better than what you have got. Satan tried this with Jesus in Matthew 4:8, he "showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour"

So James is suggesting that you do not have because you did not go to God for it.

V3. And even when you do ask you don't get it because your whole aim is wrong- you want only what will give you pleasure.

Now James says you don't have it because your aim is not God but

YOU.

Time and again this letter asks us to examine our motives and us. It's not what we could do outside for others but inside of us.

Jesus was able to overcome the temptations by just focusing on God, every time He countered with God's word saying it's also written. (Luke 4:1-12)

V 4, You are like an unfaithful wife who loves her husband's enemies. Don't you realise that making friends with God's enemies- the evil pleasures of this world-makes you an enemy of God? I say it again, that if your aim is to enjoy the evil pleasure of the unsaved world, you cannot also be a friend of God.

Again James is asking what is your primary aim ?

Is it our aim to please God? If it's so then you can't love the world and its pleasures.

We will be like loving the husband's enemies, in otherward we are like adulterous.

Apostle John also write to them in his letter, 1 John 2:15-17, 15 Do

not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

We need to understand that what we see and experience are all temporary and it will pass away but God is for eternity.

So our aim must be to please our Heavenly Father not ourselves. Pride:

THE ORIGIN OF SIN Let us now look at the first ever sin in the universe! Isaiah 14:12-15 (NKJV):

"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

From the above passage you can see how many times "I will" appears? Five times! See how rebellion enters your heart when you put your will before God's.

Satan rebelled against God because of "pride." Hence, he, along with the one third of angels that followed his course were cast out. Thus, the first sin is pride!

Paradise Lost, a fictional work done by John Milton, portrays the character of Satan as unwilling to worship God in heaven, and wanting to take His place, he begins a rebellion. Cast out of heaven, he is unrepentant, but still cries out, "Better to rule in hell than serve in heaven."

It was pride that was at the root of Satan's rebellion. He wanted to rule; He wanted to sit in the place of the Most High; He wanted to be the centre of attention.

Satan's rebellion, and the fall of the one third of the angels from heaven, and all of the evil and destruction that has come from it, sprung forth from the sin of pride.

"Pride is the root of all evil."

What is the first sin of the World? Adam's disobedience to God's word! Or, you can call it identity crisis, for Adam believed the lie about his identity. When Adam sinned, he was cast out of the Garden of Eden, whereas when Cain – his son – sinned killing Abel – his other son, God cursed him.

Why? For Adam's sin affected only him, whereas Cain's sin (Genesis 4:11) affected another person.

So when you sin against someone else, God takes it pretty seriously.

The sin here is jealousy or envy! Pride and envy are the root cause of most of the sins.

As wonderfully put in James 3:16 (NLT):

For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.

Take time to think about those sins that you commit that affect you only, I'm sure there are many! These come under the category of Adam's sin.

Now, think of all those sins that you commit that harm others as

well, I'm sure there are many here too! These fall under the category of Cain's sin.

To see an illustration of the point I'm making, let's draw a parallel out of my own life: I have two boys.

Say, for instance, one beats up the other helpless boy, do you think I can keep quiet and do nothing about it? So is the case with God!
How to overcome spiritual pride?

i) Prayer Ask God to help you and pray with others. You should be able to give the freedom to your close circle so that they can express about you freely. Irrespective of who they are, what position they hold, they should be able to speak into your life honestly.

ii) Acknowledge that you are a sinner
The truth is that I'm a sinner. I was not only one, but I am the one. But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying,

'God, be merciful to me, the

sinner!' Luke 18:13 (NASB)
"He who says he has no sin is deceived" – 1 John 1:8 (NKJV).
Every day of your life, you should see the grace of God that brings you to the awe of who God is in your life. We should come to a place where we need to understand that there is nothing except the grace of God.

iii) Always boast in God
Apostle Paul understood this grace of God very well in his life, following which he made these two most astounding statements about his achievement in the proclamation of the Gospel that clearly demonstrate that it is not by him or his strength but by the grace of God:
But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

1 Corinthians 15:10 (NKJV) Yet I dare not boast about anything except what Christ has done through me, bringing the Gentiles to God by my message and by the way I worked among them. They were convinced by the power of miraculous signs

and wonders and by the power of God's Spirit. In this way, I have fully presented the Good News of Christ from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum. Romans 15:18–19(NLT)

So what is James suggestion to get rid of this?

V 7-10, Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.
10 Humble yourselves in the sight

of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

1. **Submit to God**
2. **Resist the Devil**
3. **Draw near to God**
4. **Clean your hands**
5. **Purify your hearts**
6. **Don't be double minded**
7. **Weep and mourn**
8. **Pray**
9. **Humble yourself**
10. **Forsake the pleasures**

Each one of the topic can be independent study.

But let us examine ourselves deeply so that Holy Spirit can reveal what is inside of us.

So let us draw near to Him so that He will draw nearer to us!!

Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit."

14 How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone.

15 What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that."

16 Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil.

17 Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

1 Look here, you rich people: Weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you.

2 Your wealth is rotting away, and

your fine clothes are moth-eaten rags.

3 Your gold and silver are corroded. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire. This corroded treasure you have hoarded will testify against you on the Day of Judgment.

4 For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The cries of those who harvest your fields have reached the ears of the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

5 You have spent your years on earth in luxury, satisfying your every desire. You have fattened yourselves for the day of slaughter.

6 You have condemned and killed innocent people, who do not resist you. (NLT)

Generally the Jewish people are known for their skills in business. From the history we know how the Esau descendants, known as Edomite's were thrown away completely from their cities and how quickly they managed to get much wealth to buy authority to rule Jerusalem from Julius Cesar.

11



James 4:13-5:6

BUSINESS AND WEALTH

James points out that we as believers in Lord Jesus Christ our motive should not be to go to a new place just for a monetary profit.

There was a real threat for a life for Jews in Jerusalem.

They have been dispersed from their home town so James commands them to find where the Lord wants them to go.

Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit."

What's your motive to do

business?

Not only business anything you do, like serving in a company, hospital, Government etc.

What motivates you?

Is it for profit alone?

Look around the world the Government who took over many services to serve people they are all made into corporation and everyone is driven by the profitability of the sector.

Some of the cases are appalling like the water supplying company here in UK making huge profit and they are paying huge sum to their CEO.



Another sector is transport, even the transport for London similarly in many countries they are being charged heavily and their executives are being paid enormous amount.

Take the case of all the councils in England. The CEO of many councils is paid twice the salary of the Prime minister of our country. Why?? Greed.

Recent survey results of small business owners.

Question: Why did you leave your employment to start a business of your own?

Answer:

1. Profit motive
2. Identified Market opportunity
3. Be your own boss

So how we ought to do?

Our life on the earth is too small compared to the eternity. It's like a fog.

How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. 15 What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do

this or that.

We as Christians need to do the will of our Lord not just follow our own plans. Rather than pushing our plans and our agenda we need to realise that this life is a gift from God.

Also this life is too short and it's not worth wasting it.

In the Middle east lot of people start saying in sha allah, that is 'God willing' but this was often said by Muslims than Christians!! Solomon wrote a chapter which is very popular with many people in Ecclesiastes chapter3.

We need to look at the motive behind our life. Is it on the worldly things or the eternal values? The third reason they say they wanted to start their own business is to be their own boss they don't have to answer anyone or to work under someone.

Selfishness plays a major role in their life. They become proud about their achievement then their ways become evil.

16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

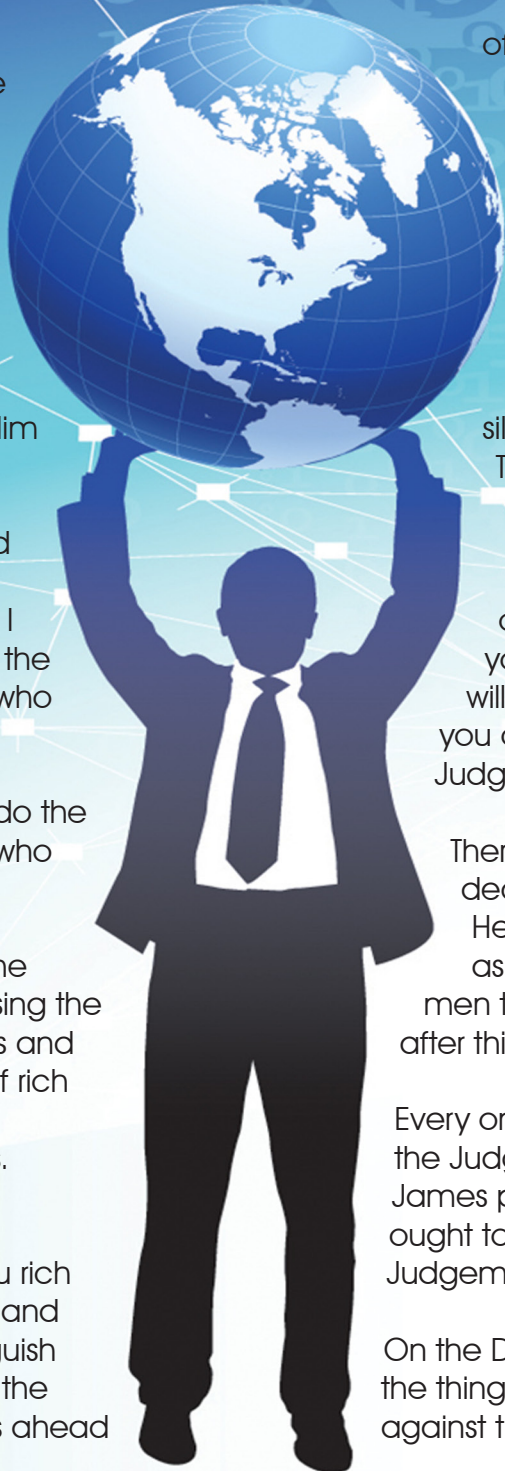
So how can we avoid this? Look at the life of Jesus, John 6:38, For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

He summarized His life mission in one line that I am here to do the will of the one who sent Me.

Let us learn to do the will of the one who sent us as well.

James warns the other side of using the business talents and making yourself rich and its consequences.

James 5:1-3
1 Look here, you rich people: Weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible troubles ahead



of you.

2 Your wealth is rotting away, and your fine clothes are moth-eaten rags.

3 Your gold and silver are corroded. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire. This corroded treasure you have hoarded will testify against you on the Day of Judgment.

There is a life after death. Hebrews 9:27, And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

Every one of us will face the Judgement. Here James points out that we ought to face the Day of Judgement.

On the Day of Judgement the thing that will witness against the rich people, is

their wealth!

Your gold and silver are corroded. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire.

This corroded treasure you have hoarded will testify against you on the Day of Judgment.

Jesus taught us clearly in Matthew 6:19-21,

19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

There is no problem in us acquiring wealth but how we use it is what matters? What do you do with what you have been given?

This wealth will get spoiled. Everything what we see and experience in this earth will get corroded.

The priority shouldn't be about acquiring them but how to use them effectively so that we can store treasures for us in Heaven.

Better you weep and groan and cry out to God and change your priorities and start using your wealth in the right way.

This wealth they had earned has not come from the right way rather they have oppressed the poor workers, James 5:4-6,

4 For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The cries of those who harvest your fields have reached the ears of the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

5 You have spent your years on earth in luxury, satisfying your every desire.

You have fattened yourselves for the day of slaughter.

6 You have condemned and killed innocent people, who do not resist you. (NLT)

They did not pay the right wages or they have completely cheated from the beginning to end that is from the planter to the harvester.

Not only have they cheated in some cases they have even killed.

They were innocent and did not have the means to stand up to you.

Secondly instead of paying their rightful wages they have used their wealth on unnecessary vanity in satisfying your desires.

You have become wealthy and healthy in size too.

James compares with the animals that are fattened to be slaughtered for sacrifice.

Thirdly their cry for help has reached the ears of Almighty God, Who is going to judge you on the Day of Judgement? Weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you.

James is right in telling them to repent so that they can straighten out now rather than feeling sorry later on the judgement day. In between these two great things James says something very important.

James 4:17, Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

When you know what you should do then still if you don't do it then its considered as sin.

Now that you know the following from this lesson,

1. We should not work or do business for the sake of profit but as a call from God.
2. We should not oppress anyone
3. Not to store wealth on this earth
4. Not to be spent on self with evil desires

5. Our wealth will stand as a testimony against us on the Day of Judgement

6. Use our wealth to store treasures in Heaven.

Now that you know all these truths how are you going to live your life?

After knowing still if you don't do it then its considered as sin for you?

Repent and seek God's grace to life which is pleasing in His sight. Amen!





PRAYER AND HEALING

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? 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.

¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

¹⁶ Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.

¹⁸ And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.. (NKJV)

There is one big controversy in the book of James also from this passage. There are many divided opinion from Roman Catholic Church, Anglican and Pentecostal churches.

Let us examine this with open mind.

Apostle James again starts this portion of scriptures with the suffering as he did in the chapter 1 and also in the previous section starts from chapter 5 verses 7 and 10.

So here in this section it's all about Prayer!!

Prayer for Comfort

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray If you are suffering for the sake of the Gospel then you ought to pray that God will comfort you.

¹ Peter 5:7 says, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

Suffering is not an option its part of our Christian life.

¹ Peter 4:12, Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you

² Timothy 3:10-12, ¹⁰ But you have carefully followed

my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured.

And out of them all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Prayer of Joy

Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

If you are cheerful then burst forth in Joy for the Lord. Thanking God with songs and psalms is a wonderful thing.

It is also proven medically those who sing on Sunday services will never get depressed.

Proverbs 15:13, A joyful heart makes a cheerful face, But when the heart is sad, the spirit is broken.

Psalms 118:24, This is the day which the LORD has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Proverbs 17:22, A joyful heart is good medicine, But a broken spirit dries up the bones. Psalm 28:7, The LORD is my strength and shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy.

I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.

Philippians 2:14-15, Do everything readily and cheerfully—no bickering, no second-guessing allowed! Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. (MSG)

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18, Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Let us have the attitude of Gratitude!

Prayer for Healing

14 Is anyone among you sick? 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. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up.

And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

"The last thing those who are sick need to be told is that it is because of sin!"

How would I know if their sickness is the result of some sin they have committed?

Of course, not all sickness is due to our personal sin in fact, most of it is due to the fall of Adam. After all, Job was very sick indeed, but was falsely told his sickness was the result of sin.

John 9:1-3 is another example: "As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of **God might be displayed in**

him.'"

From this passage we aren't in a position to preach that someone's sickness is due to sin. There are sicknesses which connected because of sin but ALL SICKNESS IS NOT BECAUSE OF SIN!

Another source is from Satan himself. But here again I would like to stress that he is not the cause of all sickness either. While Scripture makes it clear that Satan is often the agent of sickness, he is not always the author of sickness.

Sometimes God is. For example, in Exodus 4:11 God himself asks the rhetorical question "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or dumb? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the Lord?"

In 2 Kings 15:5 we read the well-known story of the Lord striking King Azariah with a skin disease from which he suffered till the day he died.

And in Luke, the angel of the Lord came directly from God's presence to strike Zechariah with an affliction because he doubted

God's word regarding the birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:19-20).

We live in a cursed creation in which aging is the primary sickness of humanity. Thus, humanity's fall into a life of

constant sin terminated by death, rather than Satan, is by far the primary cause of sickness.

As we get older we all get wrinkles, some of us need glasses, our muscles get shorter, and eventually we all die. Since the fall of humankind, both the righteous and the unrighteous have been subject to sickness and disease.

Paul confessed to the Galatians that he preached the gospel to them for the first time because of a "bodily illness" (Galatians 4:13). Timothy was called Paul's "son in the faith" (1 Timothy 1:2) yet he suffered from

frequent stomach problems (1 Timothy 5:23). And Elisha was blessed with a "double-portion anointing," yet he suffered and died a sick man (2 Kings 13:14).

Finally, it

is crucial to note that this world is under the sovereign control of God, not Satan. Thus, we can rest assured that even in sickness and suffering all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28).

For the child of God, the hope is not perfect health in this lifetime but a resurrected body in the life to come.

Revelation 21:4-5, "There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of

things has passed away' He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!'" This is the hope in which we should live.

Now let us look at what apostle James writes to them in when someone is sick. He tells them to call the elders of the church so that when you don't have the faith to be healed or to have hope in God you can lean on someone who is stronger. Also faith of the other person can heal you.

Secondly he says that if you die of sickness don't worry God will raise him up.

Confessing your sins to one another and praying for one another is encouraged as it was expected every believer to live in harmony with fellow believers.

Pray passionately

Fervent prayer of a righteous will get more from God. Don't give up but pray without ceasing and passionately.

James gives an example that is none other than the great Old

Testament prophet Elijah.

17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.

18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

Let us look at the life of Elijah (1 Kings 17-19 and 2 Kings 1) Elijah, a prophet of God whose name means "**my God is the Lord,**" came from Tishbite in Gilead. We see his account in 1 Kings 17:1 when he suddenly appears to challenge Ahab, an evil king who ruled the Northern Kingdom from 874 to 853 BC.

Elijah prophesies a drought to come upon the whole land as consequence for Ahab's evil (1 Kings 17:1-7). Warned by God, Elijah hides near the brook of Cherith where he is fed by ravens.

As the drought and famine in the land expand, Elijah was directed to meet with a widow in a neighbouring country. Her obedience to Elijah's request, God provides food enough for Elijah, the woman, and her son.

Miraculously, the widow's barrel of flour and jar of oil never run out (1 Kings 17:8–16). The lesson for the believer is that, if we walk in fellowship with the Lord and obey Him, we will be open to His will. And when we are in God's will, He fulfils all of our needs, and His mercy to us never runs short.

Next Elijah encounters with the prophets of the false god Baal on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:17-40). The prophets of Baal call upon their god all day long to rain fire from heaven to no avail.

Then Elijah builds an altar of stones, digs a ditch around it, puts the sacrifice on the top of wood and calls for water to be poured over his sacrifice three times.

The Baal does not answer to his prophets at all and Elijah mocks them further saying your god may be busy sleeping or gone to toilet etc., they cut themselves and cry all the more but no answer.

Elijah calls upon God, and God sends fire down from heaven, burns the sacrifice, the wood, and the stones and licks up the water in the ditch.

It was then Elijah kills all of the

450 false prophets of Baal. Elijah is an illustration that it is not the vessel but God in the vessel that demonstrates power.

After the great victory over the false prophets, rain once again falls on the land (1 Kings 18:41-46). However, in spite of victory and provisions from the LORD that he receives, Elijah enters a period of wavering faith and depression (1 Kings 19:1-18). Hearing that Ahab's wife Jezebel has made a vow to kill him, Elijah feels sorry for himself, hides in a cave, and even comes to believe that he alone was left of the prophets of God.

He got his eyes off of God.

It is then that the LORD instructs Elijah to stand on the mountain as the LORD passed by. There is a great wind, an earthquake, and then fire, but God is not in any of those. Then comes a still, small voice in which Elijah hears God and understands Him. When Elijah stopped focusing on the fear of what men could do and his feelings of being alone, God's voice was heard, and Elijah went on to be taken up to heaven in a whirlwind (2 Kings 2:1-11).

Elijah was filled with human frailties yet was used mightily of God.

If I can summarise the failures of Elijah

- Ran for his life when he heard from Jezebel
- Depressed
- Wanted God to kill him
- Self-Centred
- Partial obedience

Today you and me can relate with Him very well. So James

encouraging the dispersed brother not to focus on themselves but God who lives in them and How HE could use them.

2 Corinthians 4:7, But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

I pray that we will understand that we are the clay pot and the treasure is Christ Let Him have His way and His Glory and honour through us!!



¹⁹Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, ²⁰ let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins. (NKJV)

What a glorious way to finish the letter by James to his fellow brothers who have been scattered all over from Jerusalem.

We can see what James's objective in saying all those things to his brothers. Let us just review the whole letter for a moment.

Humility, how to live a role model the life of Jesus and his half-brother James?

Trials, how we have to



overcome the trials?

Wisdom, How we need the wisdom of God in overcoming the trials?

Temptations, why we are tempted and what are the source and how to overcome and live a holy life?

Perception, How do we perceive what we have got in our life? How we ought to treat others?

Hearing the word of God how it should impact our daily life? We should not be merely listening to the word of God but we should be doers of the word?

Taming the tongue, How we ought to use our

tongue, which is very powerful one. The use of tongue will determine who we are?

Partiality, Why we should not show partiality and how God does not show any favouritism?

Mercy, we should be very careful in showing mercy to others and how mercy without judgement will not be right in the eyes of God.

Faith and Works, How your faith is proven by the accompanying works? Without deeds your faith is invalid.

Pride, How God stand against pride? How pride can destroy a person

Evangelism

completely?

Rich and wealth, how we should not trust in the worldly riches rather we should humble ourselves and understand the purpose behind God's blessings.

Persevering in Patience, How we ought to persevere in patience so that we will be always stay closer to God?

Prayer, what a wonderful way we need to pray? How we can save the sick people and also how an earnest prayer will have

answers from God.

Now finally James reveals his heart in closing remarks that this letter is an invitation to Salvation.

James 4:7-10,

⁷ So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

⁸ Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

⁹ Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy.

¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honour. (NLT)

In other words, bow the knee to Christ. Come to a real salvation.

5:13, Is anyone among you suffering?

5:13, Is anyone cheerful?

5:14, Is anyone among

you sick?

5:19, if anyone among you wanders from the truth,

From this we can understand very well that James is talking about the brothers among us fallen away or wandered away from truth. Either you can say that they have wandered away from the truth or in the first place their repentance was not complete.

We need to be humble in our understanding that we were sinners and by His great mercies we are saved not by anything.

Titus 3:3-7,

For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs

according to the hope of eternal life. (NKJV) 1 Corinthians 6:9-11,

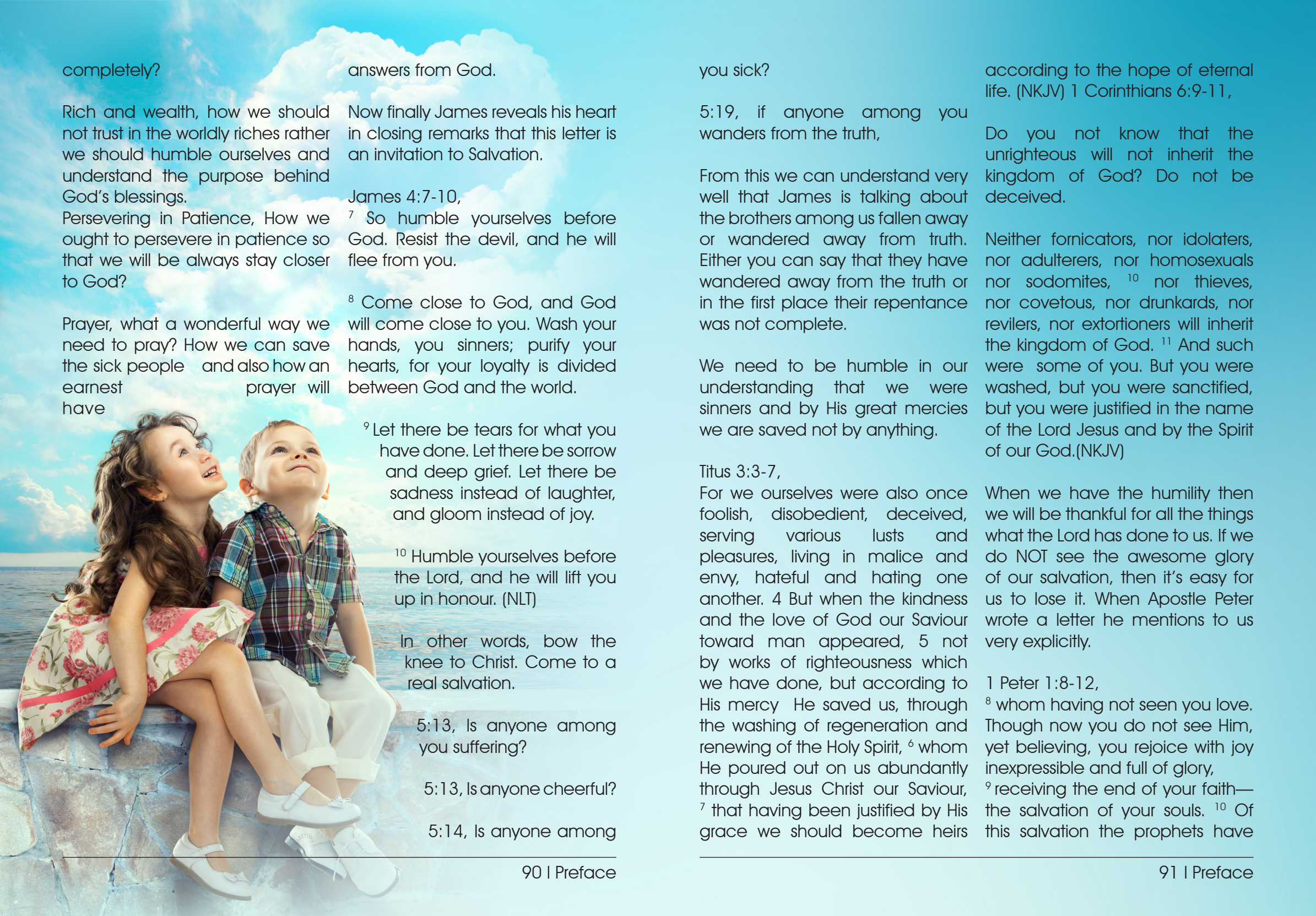
Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived.

Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. (NKJV)

When we have the humility then we will be thankful for all the things what the Lord has done to us. If we do NOT see the awesome glory of our salvation, then it's easy for us to lose it. When Apostle Peter wrote a letter he mentions to us very explicitly.

1 Peter 1:8-12,

⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls. ¹⁰ Of this salvation the prophets have



inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, ¹¹ searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

¹² To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into. (NKJV)

We all remember surely someone who was fully enthusiastic about serving God and they will get involved in everything but over a period of time they will hit a hurdle or an offense.

Then you don't see them any more in the church and after some time we find they are no longer walking with God.

Luke 15th chapter is another perfect example for the 'lost'. Verses 1-7 explains about the 'lost sheep' verses 8-10 explains about the 'lost coin' and verses 11-32 the wonderful story of 'lost son'.

Jesus said he has come to seek the 'lost' Matthew 18:11, 11 For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.

Which was

'lost' that shows it was originally it belong to Him but it was lost.

So James was asking them to look out for one another so that we will not lose anyone.

In verse 20, James was writing to them about those who are sinner or who are committed to sin.

20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

For the first time Bible calls someone as sinners is in the city of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Genesis 13:13, But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the Lord. (NKJV)

Psalms 1:1 & 5 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

Therefore, the ungodly shall

not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

Ezekiel 18: 4, "Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die.

Ezekiel 18:20a, The soul who sins shall die.

Romans 6:23, For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Jesus while He was on the earth spoke more about hell than heaven. HE spoke about it in

Matthew Chapter 5,
Chapter 7,
Chapter 8,
Chapter 10,
Chapter 13,
Chapter 18,
Chapter 22,
Chapter 23 and
Chapter 25

We will find Jesus talking about hell, about eternal death, about punishment, about a fire that burns forever, a worm that never dies, weeping, wailing, gnashing of teeth, and blackness of darkness. That's the death.

Deep and grave seriousness of the sinner's situation of their end.

Matthew 9:13, But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Verse 20 says, loaded with a multitude of sins.

We need to help these people since they face death, going to rot in hell for eternity.

The heart of man is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. And through the life of man he accumulates a weight of sin that is going to pull him in to an eternal hell.

Verse 20, "Let him know that he who turns a sinner."

You know who is going to be used for this? It doesn't say elders here, It doesn't say deacons, preachers, apostles, pastors, it says one, he who.

That means ...anybody, it's general, and we all have the same task.

Application

First let us guard ourselves that we will not stray away or wander away. How could we do that? As Jesus commanded us in John 8:31, Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

The Epistles make it very clear that we should not only stray away but we need to restore them in faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 6:4-6, For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

We are commanded by the Word of God to restore them! Apostle Peter gives us the strict warning that we should hold on to our salvation and continue in them.
2 Peter 2:20-25,

For if, after they have escaped

the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.

21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

From the very last sentence from Apostle James we can understand that we have been given a great task in our hand of evangelising others to come to know the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

1. Jesus came to save John 3:17,
For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

2. Jesus Commanded us to do Matthew 28:19-20, Go therefore and make disciples of all

the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

John 20:21, 21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

3. God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:18, "All these things are from God who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation."

4. You bought at a price and you can't live for yourself
2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.
5. The future of the unbeliever

is going to be unimaginable pain and grief for eternity John 3:18, He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

6. The salvation is only in the of Jesus Christ Acts 4:12, Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." John 14:6, Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

7. You can have abundant life John 10:10, The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

What are the five major reasons why you don't share your faith and evangelise?

1. Fear
2. Ignorance
3. Arrogance
4. Laziness
5. Bad Theology

Apostle Paul spoke about fear in

preaching, Ephesians 6:19-20, Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. (NIV)

Pray that God will give you boldness

Also as Acts 1:8, But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

May the Spirit of our Lord anoint you so that you will be a witness wherever you go!!



Book of James

LESSONS FOR LIFE

BRO. ABRAHAM DAVID JOHN