

James

by

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James

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Learning to Experience Joy

James 1:1-2

James is the writer of the book - verse 1
James wants us to have joy in trials - verse 2

James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings. My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

James is the writer of this book

**He considered himself a bondservant of God
He considered himself a bondservant of Christ
He originally wrote to the scattered Jews**

James wants us to have joy in our trials (temptations)

Joy or Happiness

is part of the fruit of the Spirit - Gal 5:22	is a human emotion
is a decision of the will -count-	is a feeling that can change
is the result of what is happening within us (our relationship to God)	is the result of what is happening around us (our relationship to things)
is strengthened during trials	is lost during trials

**Trials and temptation are actually the same word
James 1:2 and James 1:12**

**They will strengthen our faith as we yield to the Lord
They will cause us to sin if we yield to our own lusts**

Learning to Develop Patience

James 1:3-4

Patience is developed through testing - verse 3
 Patience produces maturity - verse 4

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

Patience is developed through testing

We experience events in life that are trials or temptations	
Our Choice	
Yield ourselves to sin Romans 6:13-16	Yield ourselves to God Romans 6:13-16
Results of yielding to sin 1. we depend on our own strength - Romans 7:19 2. we experience testing and temptation - James 1:13-15 3. we experience fear and failure - Romans 7:15-25 4. this produces failure	Results of yielding to God 1. we depend on God not self - Galatians 5:16 2. we experience trials and testing - James 1:2-4 3. we experience the love of Christ - Romans 8:31-39 4. this produces patience

Patience produces maturity

Patience will be causing something to happen in our lives

Patience will bring us to spiritual maturity

Patience will cause us to become complete and whole

Learning how to get Wisdom

James 1:5-8

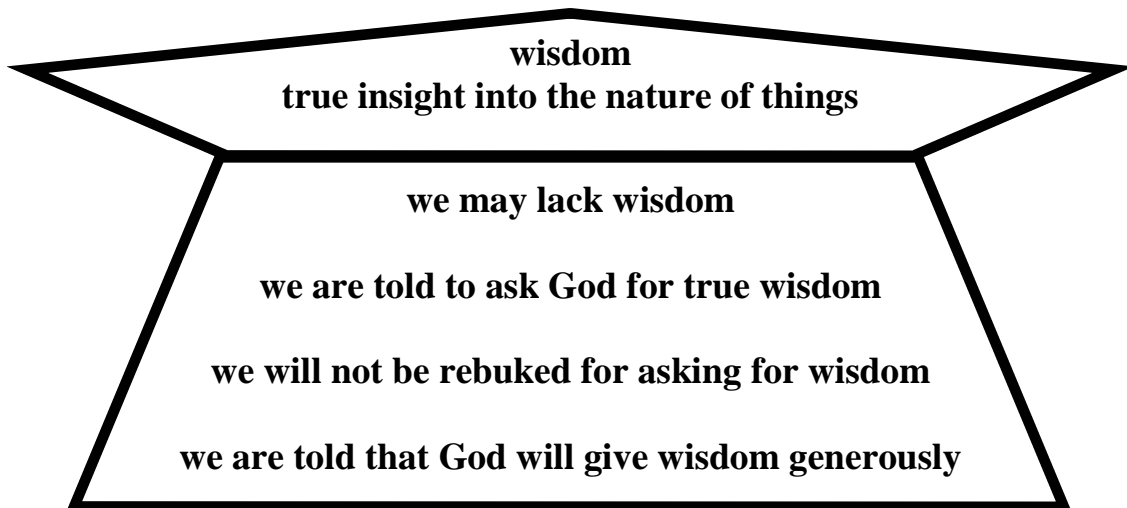
True wisdom is given by God - verse 5

True wisdom is received by faith - verses 6-7

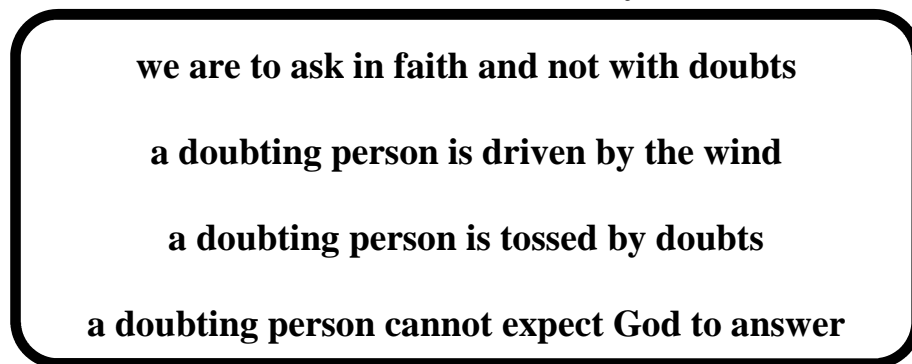
True wisdom does not come to the doubleminded -verse 8

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. 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. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

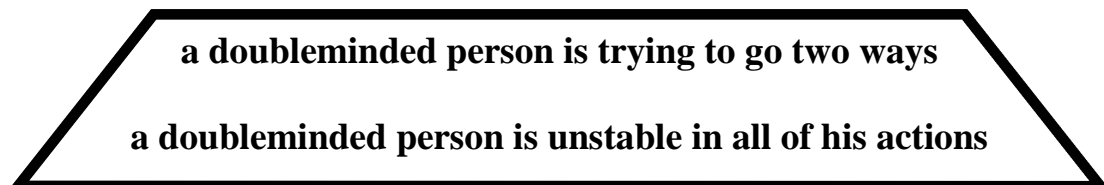
True wisdom is given by God



True wisdom is received by faith



True wisdom does not come to the doubleminded



Learning to endure Temptation

James 1:9-12

testing in this life is only for a short time - verses 9-11
testing will be followed by eternal reward - verse 12

Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. 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. 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.

Testing in this life is only for a short time

reasons why both the humble and the rich can rejoice	
the humble ↓ can rejoice because God will exalt him	the rich ↓ can rejoice because God will exalt his spiritual humbleness

reasons why we should not depend on worldly riches

riches are temporary like flowers
riches are like grass that is cut in a field
riches will perish like the grass and flowers
riches will quickly disappear and be gone

Testing will be followed by eternal reward

the person who endures temptation (testing) will be blessed
the person who endures will be shown to be approved
the person who endures will receive the crown of life
the person who endures is the one who loves Christ

Learning why we Sin

James 1:13-15

temptation does not come from God - verse 13
temptation does come from our own lusts - verse 14-15

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. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

Temptation does not come from God

we cannot say we are tempted by God

we realize that God is not tempted by evil

we realize God does not tempt us to do evil

Temptation does come from our own lusts (desires)

the three stages which happen before sin is committed (temptation)

1. desire is dormant

2. stimulus arouses desire

desire is God's design

strong desire (lust) is going beyond God's design

the three things which arouse strong desire I John 2:15-17

the lust of the flesh - the desire to feel

the lust of the eyes - the desire to have

the pride of life - the desire to be

the Biblical response:

II Timothy 2:22 - flee from youthful lusts

Titus 2:12 - deny ungodliness and worldly lusts

I Peter 2:11 - abstain from fleshly lusts

3. conscience reacts

remember the conscience may be distorted

at the time when conscience reacts, we make the choice to stop or go

the six stages of sin as it is committed

4. a person is drawn away

the will operates in every temptation by saying yes or no
the will has said yes to temptation when he is drawn away

5. a person is enticed

the mind yields passively
the mind begins to rationalize
the mind begins to put present gain ahead of future consequences

6. lust conceives

the will actively identifies with the temptation
the sin is carried out in the mind first
sin conceives or is born and will continue to grow and mature
and eventually give birth to death

7. lust brings forth sin

this is the act of committing the sin

8. sin when it is finished

action is the first step in habit formation
we develop habits and then habits control us - Galatians 6:7-8

9. the result is death

- a. for the person who is not a Christian,
he experiences spiritual death and separation from God - Rev. 20:15
- b. for the person who is a Christian,
he experiences a mental and emotional death - I Corinthians 11:30a,
Romans 7:24, Psalm 32:1-4, Psalm 38:1-8, Proverbs 14:30, Proverbs 17:22
- c. for the person who is a Christian and continues to rebel,
he will finally experience physical death - I Corinthians 11:30b

The three results when we yield to sin

we experience fear, guilt and shame - Genesis 3:7-13, Psalm 38:1-8
we experience depression - Psalm 32:1-4
we experience hardening of the conscience - I Timothy 4:2, Titus 1:15

The three steps to recovery from sin

- 1. repentance - II Corinthians 7:9-10, I Thessalonians 1:9**
(a change of mind that bears fruit in a changed life - Matthew 3:2,8)
- 2. confession - I John 1:9, Proverbs 28:13**
- 3. cleansing - Psalm 51:10. I John 1:7, 9, James 4:8**

Understanding the source of all good gifts

James 1:16-18

we are not to be deceived - verse 16
we are to understand the source of all good gifts - verse 17
we are dedicated to God for eternity - verse 18

Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. 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. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

We are not to be deceived

we are not to be deceived by our own lusts
we are not to be deceived because we are beloved

We are to understand the source of all good gifts

a good gift is one that is excellent in nature or character
a perfect or complete gift produces maturity in our lives
the Father is the source of such gifts
the Father is without change

We are dedicated to God for eternity

God chose us according to His own will
God is the source of our life and our Father
God brought us to spiritual life through the Word
God chose us for Himself for all eternity
God chose us above every other created thing

Learning to deal with wrath

James 1:19-21

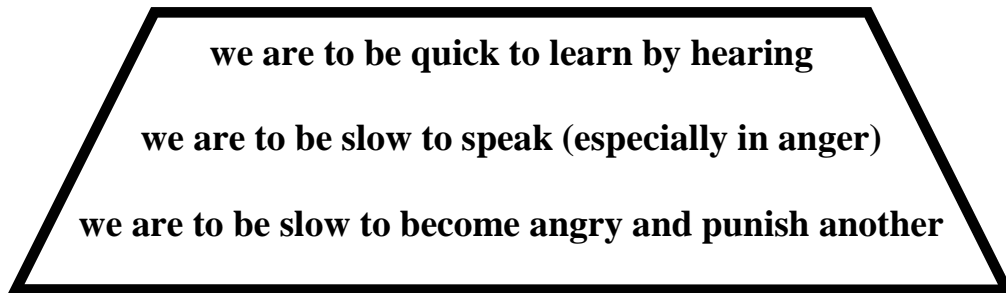
God calls us to be slow to wrath - verse 19

God says our wrath does not produce His righteousness - verse 20

God says we are to put away evil - verse 21

So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

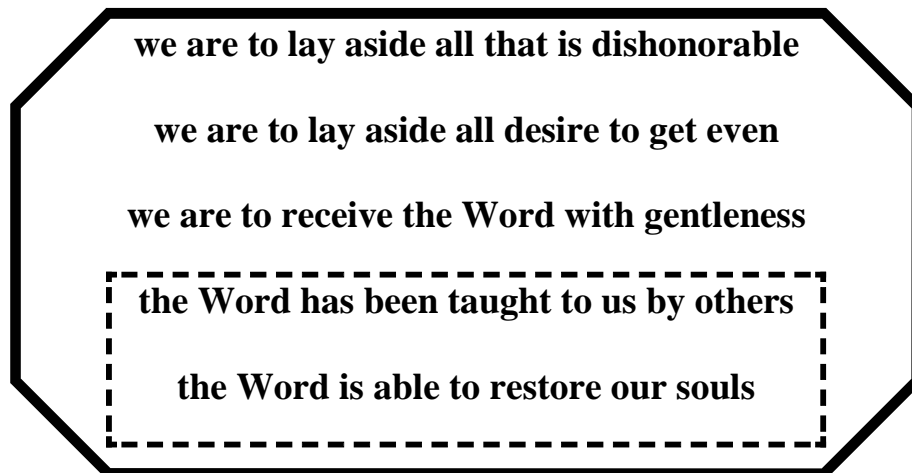
God calls us to be slow to wrath
(wrath is anger which causes us to punish another)



God says our wrath does not produce His righteousness



God says we are to put away evil



Learning to Obey the Word of God

James 1:22-25

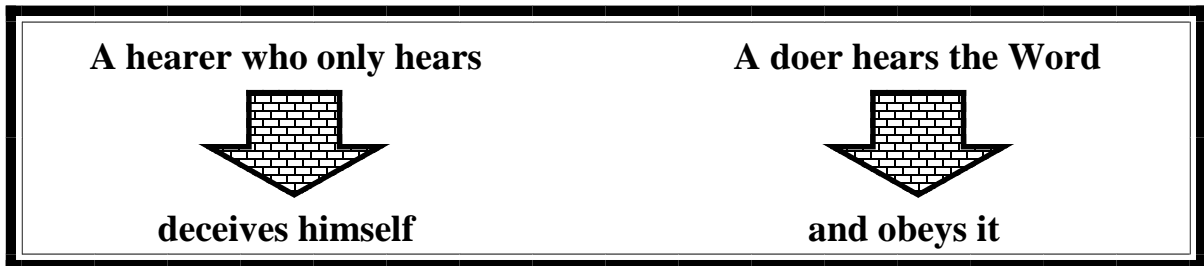
A hearer and not a doer only deceives himself - verse 22

A hearer is like a man looking in a mirror - verses 23-24

A hearer who becomes a doer is blessed - verse 25

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 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; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 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.

A hearer and not a doer only deceives himself



A hearer is like a man looking in a mirror

**a man can look in a mirror
a man can see his face in the mirror
a man can carefully observe his face
a man can walk away from the mirror
a man can immediately forget what he saw**

A hearer who becomes a doer is blessed

a person carefully looks at the perfect law of liberty (Word)

a person continues meditating on that law of liberty

a person chooses not to forget what he has carefully studied

a person chooses to obey what he has learned

a person is blessed for his obedience

Learning to Practice True Christianity

James 1:26-27

Useless religion deceives the heart - verse 26
 True religion produces service and a changed life - verse 27

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. 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.

Useless religion deceives the heart

Useless religion causes a person to think he is religious

Useless religion does not cause a person to control his tongue

Useless religion causes a person to deceive his own heart

Useless religion does not accomplish anything

True religion produces service and a changed life

Pure religion is focused on God, the Father

Pure religion causes a person to be concerned for the orphans

Pure religion causes a person to be concerned for the widows

Pure religion causes a person to keep himself unspotted

Pure religion makes a person different than the world

Useless Religion	True Religion
Sinful Thoughts	God Centered Thoughts
Sinful Actions	God Centered Actions
Sinful Heart	God Centered Heart

Learning to Treat All People Equally

James 2:1-4

we are to show the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ - verse 1
we are to minister to both the rich and the poor - verses 2-3
we are not to be judges with evil thoughts - verse 4

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. 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, 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," have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

We are to show the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ

We are to demonstrate the faith that we have in Christ
We are to demonstrate that faith by not showing partiality

We are to minister to both the rich and the poor

We may have a rich person visit our church meetings
his riches may be shown by his jewelry
his riches may be shown by expensive clothing

We may have a poor person visit our church meetings
his poverty may be shown by his filthy clothing

We are not to exalt to the rich person
we are not to pay special attention to the rich person
we are not to seat the rich person in a special place

We are not to show rejection to the poor person
this might be shown by making him stand
this might be shown by giving him a poor seat

We are not to be judges with evil thoughts

Favoring the rich means we are showing partiality
Favoring the rich means we are judges with evil thoughts

Learning to Fulfill the Royal Law

James 2:5-9

we are to see the poor according to their character - verses 5-6a

we are to see the rich according to their character - verses 6b-7

we are to fulfill the royal law - verses 8-9

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? But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called? If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well; but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

We are to see the poor according to their character

The poor of this world are often rich in faith

the poor often give great examples of faith - Matt. 15:21-28

The poor of this world are often heirs of the kingdom

they have become joint heirs with Christ - Romans 8:17

The poor often love God

the poor are often willing to give much - Luke 21:1-4

The poor have often been dishonored by others

We are to see the rich according to their character

The rich often oppress others

the rich often seek more - James 4:1-3

The rich often sue others in court

the rich often do not want to be cheated - I Cor. 6:1-7

The rich often blaspheme the name of Christ

We are to fulfill the royal law

We are to love our neighbor as we love ourselves

this is part of the summary of the Old Testament - Matthew 22:37-40

We are not to show partiality as that is sin

we become judges with evil thoughts - James 2:4

We are convicted as transgressors when we show partiality

we will reap what we sow - Galatians 6:7-9

Learning to Practice the Law of Liberty

James 2:10-13

the person who breaks one law has broken the whole law - verses 10-11
the Christian is now under the law of liberty - verse 12
the transgressor will have judgment without mercy - verse 13

For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. 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. So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

The person who breaks one law has broken the whole law

One sin means a person is guilty of all

One sin has the same result as another sin

One sin of any kind makes a person a transgressor

The Christian is now under the law of liberty

The law of liberty defined

we have been given liberty through Christ - Gal. 5:1
through liberty we are able to serve one another - Gal. 5:13

The law of liberty will affect how we speak

we will speak the truth in love - Eph. 4:15

The law of liberty will affect how we act

we will serve with the ability that God gives - I Pet. 4:11

The transgressor will have judgment without mercy

The one that has shown no mercy will be judged without mercy

this is a person that has not responded to the mercy of God - Luke 12:16-21
this person will receive no mercy at the final judgment - Rev. 20:11-15

The one that has practiced mercy does not fear judgment

this is a person that has responded to the mercy of God - Luke 18:13-14
this person will come boldly to the throne of grace - Heb. 4:16

Learning to Show Our Faith

James 2:14-17

Our faith is shown by our works - verse 14
Our faith is shown by meeting the needs of others - verses 15-16
Our faith is dead if it does not produce works - verse 17

What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Our faith is shown by our works

People can make the claim to have faith
people can be hearers but not doers - James 1:22
People can fail to show that faith by serving others
words without actions shows a lack of God's love - I John 3:17
People with words but no actions may lack genuine faith

Our faith is shown by meeting the needs of others

True faith will cause us to see when others lack basic needs
true faith gives us liberty to serve others - Galatians 5:13
True faith will not respond with words of comfort only
dead faith lacks compassion - I John 3:17
True faith will cause us to give to meet those basic needs
true faith will cause us to show love by our actions - I John 3:18

Our faith is dead if it does not produce works

Faith that does not produce works is dead
Faith that produces only words is not true faith

<p>Dead Faith</p>  <p>Sees Needs and Does Nothing</p>	<p>True Faith</p>  <p>Sees Needs and Meets Those Needs</p>
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Learning to Show Our Faith by Our Works

James 2:18-20

We are to show our faith by our works - verse 18
We realize that even the demons believe - verse 19
we are foolish if we think that faith does not produce works - verse 20

But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

We are to show our faith by our works

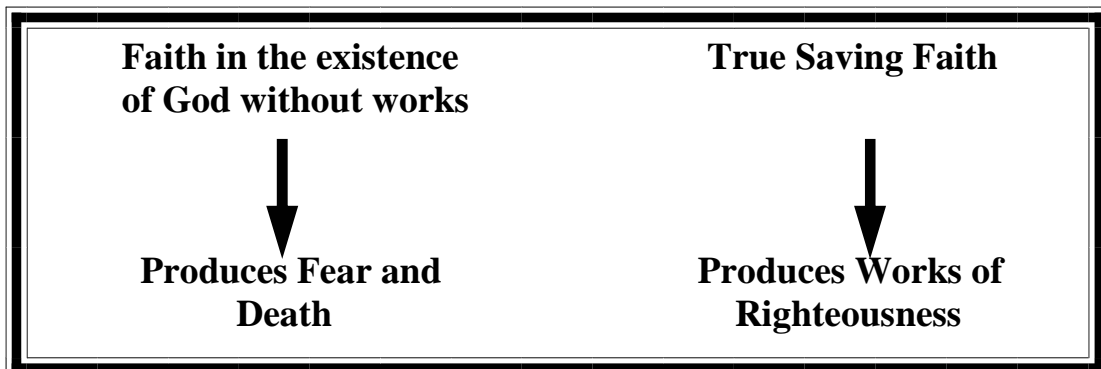
Faith without works results in a dead faith
Works without faith results in dead works

True faith shows itself by the works (ministry) that it produces

We realize that even the demons believe

People can believe in the existence of God
People have a correct belief when they believe in the existence of God
Demons also believe in the existence of God
Demons also have a correct belief when they believe in the existence of God
Demons tremble because they do believe in the existence of God
Demons know and believe the truth about God but they hate God
Demons tremble because they know they face judgment

We are foolish if we think that faith does not produce works



Learning from the Example of Abraham

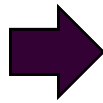
James 2:21-24

Abraham showed his works by offering Isaac - verse 21
Abraham did that as a result of many years of faith - verse 22
Abraham had faith put to his account - verse 23
Abraham was justified by faith that produced works - verse 24

Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

Abraham show his works by offering Isaac

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." [2] Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. - Genesis 22:1-3



But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." - Genesis 22:7-

Abraham did that as a result of many years of faith

Hebrews 11:8-10

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Abraham was 65 years old when he left Ur - Genesis 11:31

Abraham was 75 years old when he left Haran - Genesis 12:4

Abraham was a sojourner for 110 years - Genesis 25:7-8

Abraham had an eternal viewpoint

Abraham had faith put to his account

Abraham was justified by faith that produced works

Learning from the Example of Rahab

James 2:25-26

Rahab was justified by works that showed her faith - verse 25

Rahab shows us that works is a result of faith - verse 26

Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Rahab was justified by works that showed her faith

Rahab hid the spies

Joshua 2:3-5

So the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the country." Then the woman took the two men and hid them. So she said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. And it happened as the gate was being shut, when it was dark, that the men went out. Where the men went I do not know; pursue them quickly, for you may overtake them."

Rahab put her trust in God for protection

Joshua 2:12-13, Joshua 2:17-19

Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the Lord, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token, and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death."

So the men said to her: "We will be blameless of this oath of yours which you have made us swear, unless, when we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father's household to your own home. So it shall be that whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we will be guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head if a hand is laid on him.

Rahab shows us that works is a result of faith

Rahab is listed as a hero of faith

Hebrews 11:31

By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

Faith → Produced → Works

Learning the Importance of Controlling our Tongue

James 3:1-4

We are to be careful as we teach - verse 1

We are to learn to be careful with our words - verse 2

We are able to control a horse with a bit - verse 3

We are able to control a ship with a small helm - verse 4

My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. 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. Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. 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.

We are to be careful as we teach

Being a teacher is a great privilege

A teacher has the privilege of equipping the saints for the ministry - Eph. 4:11-12

Being a teacher carries a great responsibility

A teacher is to lead by example - I Peter 5:2-3, I Corinthians 11:1

We are to learn to be careful with our words

We can stumble in many different ways

We are to learn not to stumble by what we say

We show maturity when we are careful what we say

We control our whole body when we control our tongue

We are able to control a horse with a bit

We put a bit in the mouth of a horse

We use that bit to make the horse obey us

We are able to turn a horse around with that bit

We are able to control a ship with a small helm

A ship can be very large

A ship can be driven by very strong winds

A ship can be turned with a very small helm

Learning that Most Tongues are not Controlled

James 3:5-8

A tongue can start a great fire - verse 5

A tongue can defile the whole body - verse 6

A tongue cannot be tamed by self effort - verse 7-8

Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! 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. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

A tongue can start a great fire

A tongue is just a small part of our body
A tongue can boast great things
A tongue can start a very large fire

A tongue can defile a whole body

The tongue is like a fire
The tongue can be filled with a world of iniquity
We are told to speak words that edify - Eph. 4:29-31
The tongue is in a position to defile the whole body
We are told to put away the sins of the tongue - Col. 3:8
The tongue affects everyone that we meet
We can defile many others with a bitter tongue - Heb. 12:15
The tongue can be greatly used by Satan
We are to be quick to hear and slow to speak - James 1:19-20

A tongue cannot be tamed by self effort

People can tame almost any kind of animal
People can tame almost any kind of bird
People can tame almost any kind of reptile
People can tame almost any kind of sea creature
People cannot tame a tongue
People can use their tongue for uncontrollable evil
People can use their tongue to spread deadly poison

Learning to Speak with Consistency

James 3:9-12

Our tongue is made to bless God - verse 9

Our tongue is not to both bless and curse - verse 10

Our tongue is to have the consistency of a fountain or tree - verses 11-12

With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

Our tongue is made to bless God

A godly person uses the tongue to bless God

An ungodly person uses the tongue to curse people

An ungodly person is cursing people made in the image of God

Our tongue is not to both bless and curse

Some people use the same mouth to bless and to curse

A doubleminded person is unstable in all of their ways - James 1:8

Those people are not doing what they should be doing

Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks - Matt. 12:34

**The condition of the heart
determines
The words that we speak**

Our tongue is to have the consistency of a fountain, tree or spring

A fountain does not give both fresh water and bitter water

A fig tree does not produce olive berries

A grapevine does not produce figs

A spring does not give both salt water and fresh water

Learning why Most People do not Speak With Wisdom James 3:13-16

- A wise man will provide an example to follow - verse 13**
- A wise man will not have bitter envy in his heart - verse 14**
- A wise man will recognize demonic wisdom - verse 15**
- A wise man will not produce evil works - verse 16**

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

A wise man will provide an example to follow

- A wise person skillfully applies knowledge to practical living**
- A wise person has practical understanding and applies it**
- A wise person gives an example to follow by good conduct**
- A wise person has a gentle spirit and is not proud**

A wise man will not have bitter envy in his heart

- A proud person is controlled by bitterness and resentment**
- A proud person divides people to get what he wants for himself**
- A proud person is arrogant and boastful**
- A proud person speaks against the truth**

A wise man will recognize selfish and demonic wisdom

- worldly wisdom does not have wisdom from above**
- worldly wisdom depends on earthly thinking**
- worldly wisdom seeks only to satisfy self**
- worldly wisdom is demonic and comes from Satan**

A wise man will not produce evil works

- worldly wisdom produces envy**
- worldly wisdom produces a self seeking attitude**
- worldly wisdom produces confusion**
- worldly wisdom produces every evil work**

Learning How to Speak with Wisdom

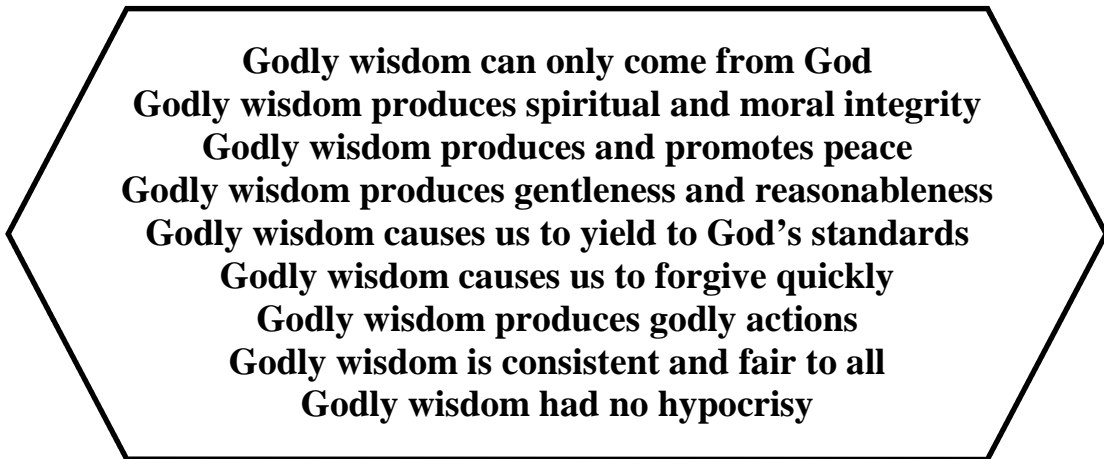
James 3:17-18

Wisdom equips us for very effective ministry - verse 17

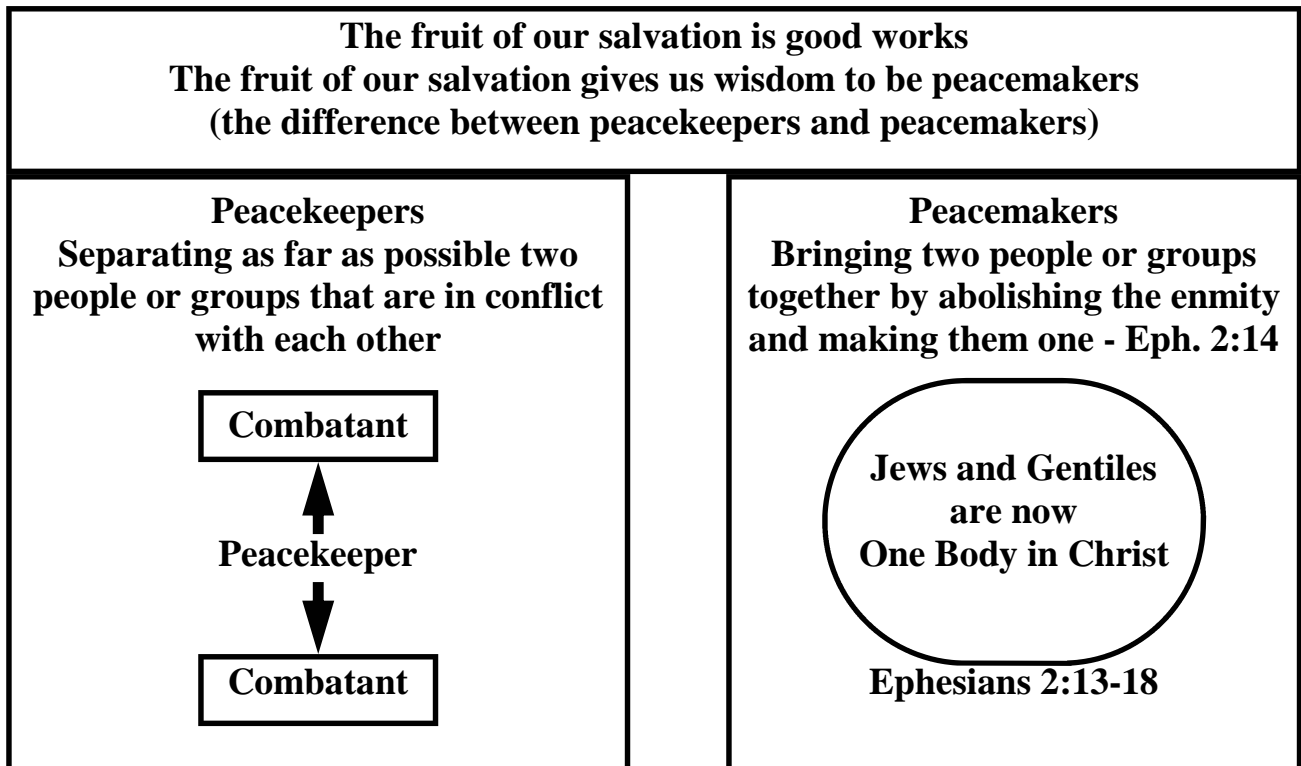
Wisdom equips us to become peacemakers - verse 18

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. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Wisdom equips us for very effective ministry



Wisdom equips us to become peacemakers



Learning Why Many Prayers are not Answered

James 4:1-3

Learning the source of conflicts - verse 1
Learning why people do not get what they desire - verse 2
Learning why prayers are not answered - verse 3

Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You 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. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

Learning the source of conflicts

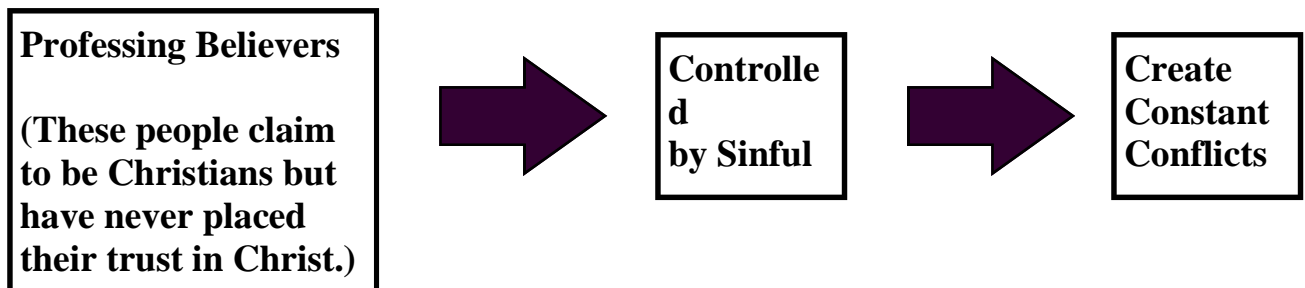
What is the source of conflicts in the church?
The church often includes both true believers and professing believers
The conflicts come from within because of worldly desires for pleasure
Professing believers cannot control evil desires - Romans 6:13
Carnal believers cannot carry out good desires - Romans 7:14-25

Learning why people do not get what they desire

Professing believers lust for those worldly pleasures
Professing believers may even kill to get what they want
Professing believers will certainly covet the things they want
Professing believers will fight to get what they want
Professing believers are unwilling to submit to God
Professing believers are then unable to ask

Learning why prayers are not answered

Professing believers will ask with selfish motives if they do ask
Professing believers ask to satisfy their own sinful desires



Learning Why God Gives Grace to the Humble

James 4:4-6

Learning the dangers of friendship with the world - verse 4

Learning the results of the human spirit seeking the world - verse 5

Learning why God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble - verse 6

Adulterers 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. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"? But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

Learning the dangers of friendship with the world

Professing Christians are actually practicing spiritual adultery
Professing Christians have a strong desire for the world
Professing Christians are actually at enmity with God
Professing Christians choose to be enemies of God

Learning the results of the human spirit seeking the world

Professing Christians are described by the Word of God
Professing Christians are controlled by their human spirit
Professing Christians have a spirit controlled by evil desires

Learning why God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble

God wants to give His grace to those who are resisting Him
God must resist the pride of fallen sinful mankind
God always extends His grace to those who humble themselves



Learning How to Humble Ourselves

James 4:7-10

We choose to submit to God - verse 7

We choose to draw near to God - verse 8

We choose to mourn because of our sin - verse 9

We choose to humble ourselves before God - verse 10

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

The way the professing believer receives salvation and eternal life

Submit to God

to place yourself under God

Resist the Devil and he will flee from you

choose to turn away from Satan and stand against him

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you

draw near to God to enjoy communion with Him

Cleanse your hands, you sinners

confess your wrong actions to God

Purify your hearts, you double-minded

purify your thoughts and attitudes

Lament

be broken over the sinfulness of your sin

Mourn

come to God with a broken and contrite heart

Weep

experience true sorrow for sin

Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom

have true repentance for leaving God out of your life

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord

make yourself low before God

He will lift you up!

He will forgive your sin and give you eternal life

Learning Why we are Not to Judge Others

James 4:11-12

We are not to speak evil of others - verse 11
 We are to recognize God as the only judge - verse 12

Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?

We are not to speak evil of others

Christians are not to speak evil against one another
 to speak evil means to gossip, slander or defame a person
The one who speaks evil of a brother is judging that brother
 those who speak evil of a brother have set themselves up as judge
The one who speaks evil of the law judges the law
 those who speak evil of others choose to ignore the law of God
The one who judges the law is not obeying the law of God
 that person has chosen to violate the new commandment
The one who judges the law sets himself above God
 the person is not humbling himself before God

We are to recognize God as the only judge

God is the true Lawgiver
 God has chosen to save those who repent
 God has chosen to destroy those who reject

God is the One who is to Judge!		
<p>God will judge all unbelievers according to their works</p> <p>This will happen at the Great White Throne Judgment</p> <p>All unbelievers will be cast into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone Rev. 20:11-15</p>	<p>Since God is the law-giver, we are not to become a judge</p>	<p>God will judge all believers according to their works</p> <p>This will happen at the Judgment Seat of Christ - II Cor. 5:10</p> <p>Christ will determine what rewards can be given to believers I Corinthians 3:12-15</p>

Learning to Ask God to Guide our Plans

James 4:13-17

People often leave God out of their planning - verse 13
People forget that we have no guarantees in life - verse 14
People need to learn to let God guide our plans - verse 15
People need to learn to do good - verses 16-17

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

People often leave God out of their planning

There were people that were leaving God out of their planning
These people did not ask God about the use of their time
These people did not ask God about the operation of their business
These people expected to make money through their own efforts

People forget that we have no guarantees in life

These people had no guarantee that they would have long life
These people did not even consider the shortness of life
These people did not realize that their life was like a vapor
These people did not realize that their life could be taken tomorrow

People need to let God guide our plans

True Christians seek the will of the Lord
True Christians plan according to the will of God

People need to learn to do good

These other people were controlled by boasting
These people did not even realize their attitude was evil
These people knew that they should do good
These people did not plan to do what was good
These people chose to sin by not doing good

Learning the Danger of Riches

James 5:1-3

The rich are warned of coming judgment - verse 1
The rich are told that their riches are corrupted - verse 2
The rich are told their riches witness against them - verse 3

Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days.

The rich are warned of coming judgment

The rich are warned about coming judgment
(this warning shows that these were not true Christians)
the result was they were misusing their riches to satisfy themselves

The rich are told to weep and mourn
this is a call to repent and put their trust the Lord

The rich are warned of coming calamity
the judgment of all non-Christians is eternal judgment

The rich are told that their riches are corrupted

Their expensive foods have become corrupted
these foods had spoiled and become rotten

Their garments had become motheaten
their expensive clothing was filled with holes

The rich are told their riches witness against them

Their gold and silver had corroded
their precious metals had become tarnish by corrosion

Their riches would be a witness against them
they would be judged for their misuse of their riches

They had gathered their riches for the last days
they had gathered their riches for life on this earth

Christians
lay up their treasures in heaven
Matthew 6:19-24

non-Christians
leave their treasures on earth
Luke 12:16-21

Learning the Danger of Satisfying Self

James 5:4-6

The rich will have their sin revealed - verse 4
The rich have lived to please themselves - verse 5
The rich have condemned the just - verse 6

Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.

The rich will have their sin revealed

The rich had cheated their workers

this was specifically forbidden in the Old Testament - Deut. 24:14-15

The rich had kept money through fraud

Jeremiah warned Jehoiakim that fraud would be judged - Jer. 22:13-17

The rich would have their riches as a testimony against them

the Lord hears the cries against the fraud of the rich - Deut. 24:15

The rich would one day have the Lord of hosts judge them

the Lord will judge every unbeliever according to his works - Rev. 20:11-15

The rich have lived to please themselves

The rich had lived in pleasure

Christians are told to put off these works of the past - Rom. 13:12-14

The rich had lived in luxury

Christ spoke of one such rich man - Luke 16:19, 25

The rich had fattened themselves for the day of slaughter

the Lord will prepare the wicked for the day of slaughter - Jer. 12:3

The rich have condemned the just

The rich condemned the just

Stephen was condemned without cause - Acts 6:8-15

The rich murdered the just

Stephen was the first martyr of the early church - Acts 7:54-59

The rich had not been resisted by the just

Stephen even prayed for the ones that stoned him - Acts 7:60

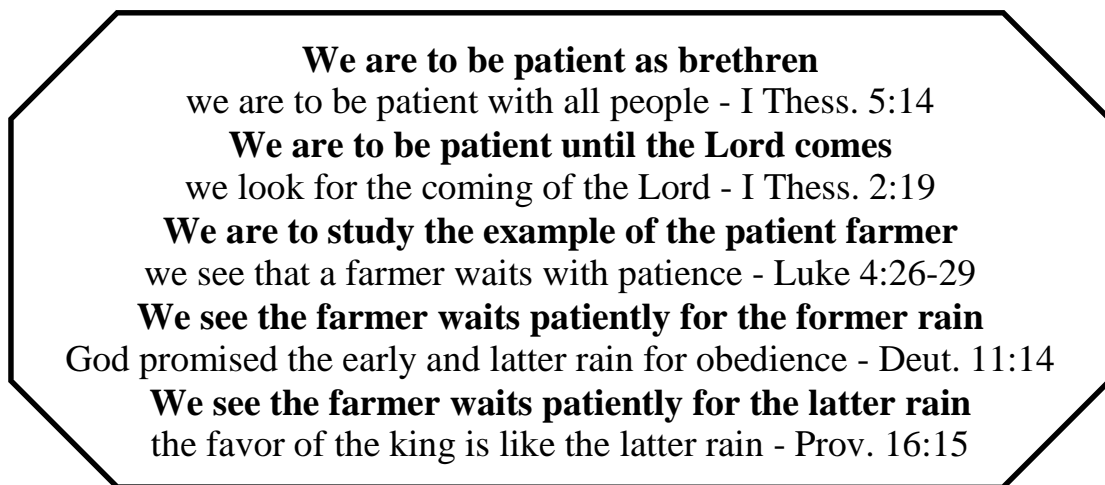
Learning the Importance of Patience

James 5:7-8

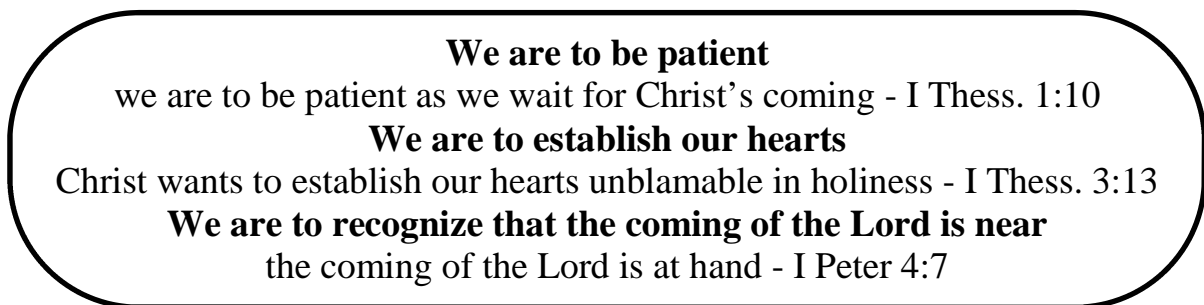
We are to be patient as we wait for the coming of the Lord - verse 7
We are to be patient as His coming draws near - verse 8

Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

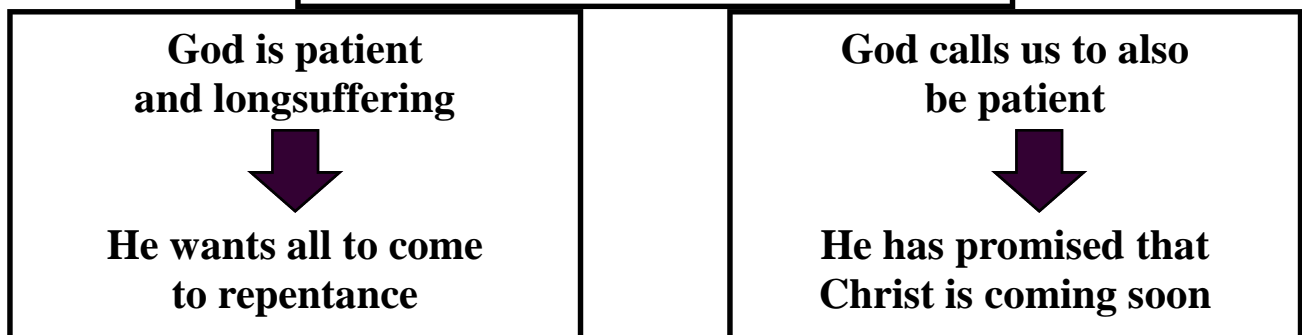
We are to be patient as we wait for the coming of the Lord



We are to be patient as His coming draws near



God gives us an example of patience



Learning the Importance of Endurance

James 5:9-12

- We are not to grumble against one another - verse 9
- We are to learn from the example of the prophets - verse 10
- We are to learn from the example of Job - verse 11
- We are to learn to be people of our word - verse 12

Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 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. But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes," be "Yes," and your "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment.

We are not to grumble against one another

**we are not to grumble against one another
we do not want to be condemned ourselves
we realize that the Judge is standing at the door**

We are to learn from the example of the prophets

**the prophets spoke for the Lord
the prophets gave us an example of suffering
the prophets gave us an example of patience**

We are to learn from the example of Job

**we recognize that those that endure are blessed
we have all heard of the perseverance of Job
we know the end that is intended by the Lord
we recognize that the Lord is very compassionate
we recognize that the Lord is very merciful**

We are to learn to be people of our word

**we are not to swear by heaven
we are not to swear by the earth
we are to let our yes be yes
we are to let our no be no**

Learning to Pray for the Sick

James 5:13-15

Learning how to respond both in good times and bad - verse 13

Learning what to do when one is sick - verse 14

Learning how God will answer the prayer of faith - verse 15

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

Learning how to respond both in good times and bad

what we are to do when we are suffering
we are to pray when suffering
what we are to do when we are cheerful
we are to sing psalms

Learning what to do when one is sick

what we are to do when we are sick
the word sick means to be feeble, without strength or sick
we are to call for the elders of the church
the glory is to go to God not to any one person
we are to ask the elders to pray for the sick
this is part of their ministry of shepherding the flock
we are to ask the elders to anoint the sick
this may also include strengthening and encouraging

Learning how God will answer the prayer of faith

the elders are to offer prayer in faith
the focus is on the prayer of faith of the elders not the faith of the sick
the Lord will deliver the sick from their infirmity
the sick may want to confess sins they have committed
some sickness or infirmity is the result of sin - I Cor. 11:28-30
some sickness or infirmity is to bring glory to God - John 9:3
the Lord will forgive any sins the believer might confess
the Lord is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse - I John 1:9

Learn to Pray for One Another

James 5:16-18

We are to pray for one another - verse 16

We are to remember how Elijah prayed - verse 17

We are to remember how God answered the prayer of Elijah - verse 18

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

We are to pray for one another

We are to confess our trespasses to one another

we choose to be accountable to one another
we confront one another when needed - Luke 17:3-4

We are to pray for one another

we are to rebuke one another when needed
we are to repent and confess to one another

We are to bring healing to our relationships

we are to forgive one another and heal our relationships

We are to realize the power of the prayer of the righteous

we are to labor fervently in our prayers for one another - Col. 4:12
we have confidence that God will answer our prayers - I John 5:14-15

We are to remember how Elijah prayed

Elijah was a person that sinned just like we do

Elijah became fearful at times - I Kings 19:3
Elijah even became suicidal at times - I Kings 19:4

Elijah prayed that it would not rain

Elijah had his prayer answered

Elijah was used by God to stop the rain for 3 1/2 years

We are to remember how God answered the prayer of Elijah

Elijah then prayed and asked God for rain

God caused the heavens to give much rain
God caused the earth to again bring forth fruit

Learning How to Minister to Others

James 5:19-20

We are to help a brother that wanders from the truth - verse 19

We are to turn the brother from the error of his way - verse 20

Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 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.

We are to help a person that wanders from the truth

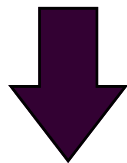
We are to recognize when a person wanders from the truth
some may wander due to lack of spiritual growth - Heb. 5:11-14
(these never grew to spiritual maturity - I Cor. 3:1-3; 13:11)
some may wander that tasted but never received life - Heb. 6:1-8
(these were never true believers - I John 2:19)

We are to seek to bring the wanderer back to the truth
the wandering Christian needs to be brought back
the professing Christian needs to be brought to repentance

We are to turn the wanderer from the error of his way
some are sinners that never trusted Christ
such individuals need to come to repentance
this will save a person from eternal judgment
this will cover a multitude of sins

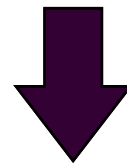
Those who wander from the truth

**Some wander due to lack of
spiritual growth - I Thess. 5:14**



We need to:
Warn the unruly (those out of line)
Comfort the fainthearted
Hold up the weak
Be patient with all

**Some wander due to lack
of any spiritual life - Luke 15:3-7**



We need to:
Seek the lost
Find the lost
Bring the lost to repentance
Celebrate the finding of the lost