

JAMES, A MANUAL FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

“Preparing for the Journey” (James 1:1-4)

I. A DESCRIPTION OF THE AUTHOR (JAMES 1:1)

A. HIS NAME

1. There were two James. This was not James, the Son of Zebedee (Mark 3:17; Matthew 4:21).
2. This was James, the half-brother of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 13:55, “Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?”

3. James was a tremendous leader in the church of Jerusalem.

Galatians 2:9, “And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.”

4. James was martyred in 62 A.D.

B. HIS CHARACTER

The word “servant” is from the Greek word *doulos* meaning bond-servant or slave. He was a servant-leader.

Philippians 2:7-8, “⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

1. A true servant must not strive.

II Timothy 2:24, “And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient.”

2. A true servant serves God from the heart.

Ephesians 6:6, “Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;”

3. A true servant is not motivated by pleasing Christ only.

Colossians 3:22-23, “²² Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: ²³ And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;”

II. THE DESTINATION OF THE EPISTLE (JAMES 1:1)

A. IT WAS WRITTEN TO SAVED JEWS

The twelve tribes were those saved Jews who were living outside of Palestine.

B. IT WAS WRITTEN TO SUFFERING JEWS

III. THE DIRECTION OF THE MESSAGE

A. THE THEME OF COMFORT (JAMES 1:2-3)

Psalm 119:71, “It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.”

B. THE THEME OF MATURITY (JAMES 1:4)

“Too many churches are playpens for babies instead of workshops for adults.” – Paul Chappell

Psalm 119:165, “Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.”

Hebrews 6:1, “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,”

4 Ways that you can get the most from this study:

1. Examine Your Heart.

Luke 8:15, “But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.”

2. Look Into the Mirror (James 1:22-25).
3. Obey the Word of God
4. Measure Your Growth by the Word of God

James, A Manual for the Christian Life

“Developing Godly Character” (James 1:2-4; II Peter 1:3-6)

INTRODUCTION: There is a 7-fold progression in growing in grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. It begins at the foundation of our faith, but continues as we add to our faith virtue, or moral strength. Virtue is belief that behaves. We are then to add knowledge which is integrity that’s informed. Then we to add temperance or self control, which is knowledge that’s restrained. But in our study of James, the virtue he begins his epistle with is the fourth one on Peter’s progressive list; patience. Patience comes from the Greek word *hupomone* meaning cheerful or hopeful endurance.

James 5:7, “Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.”

Romans 5:3, “. . . we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;”

II Corinthians 4:8-10, “⁸ We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.”

I. PATIENCE IS A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE (JAMES 1:2)

Hebrews 12:2, “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

“The thing that amazed the heathen in the centuries of the persecution of Christians was that the martyrs did not die grimly, they died singing.”
– William Barclay

II. IT IS A MATTER OF PERSEVERANCE (JAMES 1:3)

A. SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE (HEBREWS 12:1)

B. DON’T GIVE UP (HEBREWS 12:1)

C. KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS (HEBREWS 12:3)

I Corinthians 15:58, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

III. IT’S A MATTER OF PERFECTING (JAMES 1:4)

Job 23:10, “But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”

“In times of trouble say, ‘First: He brought me here; it is by His will I am in this strait place; in that I will rest. Next: He will keep me here in His love, and give me grace in this trial to behave as His child. Then: He will make this trial a blessing, teaching me the lessons He intends me to learn, and working in me the grace He means to bestow. Last: In His good time He can bring me out again.’”
– Andrew Murray

The next time you find yourself in a trial, remember that you are there . . .

- 1) . . . by God’s appointment
 - 2) . . . in God’s keeping
 - 3) . . . under God’s training
 - 4) . . . by God’s time
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“Accessing God’s Wisdom” (James 1:5-8)

Proverbs 4:5-7, “⁵ Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. ⁶ Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. ⁷ Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.”

- 1) God’s Word is the source of all wisdom.
- 2) Godly Counsel is a great source of wisdom.
- 3) Prayer is a great source of wisdom (James 1:5).

“Wisdom is the right use of knowledge. To know is not to be wise. Many men know a great deal, and are all the greater fools for it. There is no fool so great a fool as a knowing fool. But to know how to use knowledge is to have wisdom.” – Charles Spurgeon

I. THE AVAILABILITY OF WISDOM (JAMES 1:5)

A. WISDOM IS AVAILABLE TO ANY CHRISTIAN (PSALM 111:10)

B. WISDOM IS AVAILABE TO OBEDIENT CHRISTIANS (PSALM 111:10)

C. WISDOM IS AVAILABLE FROM GOD (PROV. 2:1-6)

II. THE ACCESS TO WISDOM (JAMES 1:6)

Mark 11:24, “Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”

Proverbs 2:6-7, “⁶ For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. ⁷ He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly”

“Faith is a little boy who ties a rope swing onto a little sapling branch. Then noticing that the seat of the swing rests on the ground, he goes to get the water hose and begins to water the sapling.” – unknown

III. THE ADVERSARY OF WISDOM (JAMES 1:6)

II Timothy 1:7, “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

“Changeableness is an evidence of an unsubdued will and generally too of an inflatable ego which leads one to be occupied unduly with the importance of his affairs.” – H. A. Ironside

Exodus 20:5, “. . . I the LORD thy God am a jealous God,”

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“Understanding and Defeating Temptation” (James 1:13-16)

INTRODUCTION: All of the fiery trials that we face are Father-filtered. There’s not a trial that comes in my life that God caught God by surprise. Every trial in the life of Job first had to go through God’s test for approval. All trials are Father-filtered, but God never tempts his children with sin (James 1:13). So when we study the word *tempt* we are shifting gears from our study of trials. The word *tempt* means a solicitation to do evil. God may try us with hardships, but he will never solicit us to do evil. However, it is important to understand that with every trial comes temptations and while we should embrace the trial, we should fear the temptation.

I. TEMPTATION’S DESIRE: THE EMOTIONS (JAMES 1:14)

1. Temptation is common in the Christian life.

I Corinthians 10:13, “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

2. Where does temptation’s desire start? In the heart.

Matthew 15:19, “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:”

II. TEMPTATION’S DECEPTION: THE MIND (JAMES 1:14)

The Laodicean church had all the programs, money and entertainment you could imagine, yet God said that they are a wretched, miserable, poor and blind church.

Revelation 3:14-17, “¹⁴ And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; ¹⁵ I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. ¹⁷ Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:”

III. TEMPTATION’S DISOBEDIENCE: THE WILL (JAMES 1:15)

“You cannot keep birds from flying overhead, but you can keep them from nesting on your head.” – Martin Luther

I Corinthians 9:27, “But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection. . .”

Philippians 2:13, “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”

IV. TEMPTATION’S DEATH: THE RESULT (JAMES 1:15)

I John 1:6, “If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:”

(Ill.) Adam and Eve

Genesis 2:17, “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

1. **Temptation’s Desire:** Eve first saw the fruit and desired it. Satan told her that if she ate of it, she would become a god (modern Mormon belief). Eve saw that the tree was good for food and desired it.
2. **Temptation’s Deception:** Eve believed the devil’s lies. She believed that God was keeping something good from her.
3. **Temptation’s Disobedience:** She took of the fruit and shared it with her husband, and we know now that the disobedience led to death.

Romans 5:12, “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”

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“Living on the Winning Side” (James 1:13-17)

INTRODUCTION: In the last days of Dr. Curtis Hutson, he preached a great message entitled “Things that are Different are not the Same.” He began this message by singing the song, “I’m on the Winning Side.” I’m glad that we are on the winning side, aren’t you? But even though we who are born again are on the winning side, we don’t always live everyday as if we are on the Winning Side. James was trying to help these first century Christians to live on the winning side in spite of the trials and persecutions they faced.

I. REALIZE THE PRICE OF SIN (JAMES 1:14-15)

- A. DESIRE IS WHERE SIN BEGINS (JAMES 1:14)
- B. DESIRE LEADS TO DECEPTION (JAMES 1:14)

Ephesians 6:14, “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;”

C. DECEPTION LEADS TO DISOBEDIENCE (JAMES 1:15)

- 1. Desire is the beginning of the thought process. Deception is when you believe the lies of the Devil. And disobedience is when you act upon the deception.
- 2. Disobedience is an act of our own will.

D. DISOBEDIENCE LEADS TO DEATH (JAMES 1:15)

- 1. If we are to live in the winning side, we must understand that that little thought is not a little thought.
- 2. Sin always brings about the process of decay.
- 3. There are some people who sin to the point that their conscience begins to die.
- 4. When faced with temptation, we need to get our eyes off of the bait and onto the consequences.

II. RECEIVE THE PROMISES OF GOD’S GIFTS (JAMES 1:17)

A. THE QUALITY OF HIS GIFTS (JAMES 1:17-A)

- 1. What kind of gifts does God give? Good and perfect gifts

Dueteronomy 6:10-12, “¹⁰ And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, ¹¹ And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; ¹² Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.”

- 2. Sometimes we need to think back to that day when we got saved and consider where we would be if we had not been gotten saved.

Luke 11:13, “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”

John 10:28, “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”

B. THE AVAILABILITY OF HIS GIFTS (JAMES 1:17-B)

The phrase “cometh down” gives the implication of a constant availability. We might use the phrase “Raining Down”.

C. THE GUARANTEE OF HIS GIFTS (JAMES 1:17)

- 1. “The Father of lights” is a reminder that this is the God who spoke the sun and stars into existence.
- 2. The last phrase of this verse illustrates the fact that the stars and planets rotate and sometimes they eclipse each other.
- 3. God is immutable. This means that God is unchanging.

“God’s gifts are always better than Satan’s bargains.” – Dr. Paul Chappell

Proverbs 10:22, “The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.”

Psalm 27:14, “Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.”

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“The New Man and the Word of God” (James 1:18-22)

INTRODUCTION: One of the key differences between the evolutionist and the creationist is that the creationist believes that man was created with a soul. They believe that man is essentially no different than any other animal, but we believe that the fact that we were created with a soul and that we were the only animal made in God’s image prove that we are on a far higher level than the other animals. Now as born-again believers, we not only have a soul, but we have a redeemed soul. This is what James is talking about in verse 18. God loves the whole world, saved and unsaved, but this verse says that His children are the firstfruits of His creatures.

How did we get to this position of being a firstfruit?

- 1) We are born-again by the Will of God (James 1:18).
- 2) We are born-again by the Word of God (James 1:18; I Peter 1:23).
- 3) We are also born-again by the Spirit of God.

John 3:6, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

I Corinthians 2:14, “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

I. THE NEW MAN MUST HEAR THE WORD OF GOD (JAMES 1:19)

A. SWIFT TO HEAR (JAMES 1:19, 21)

I Peter 2:1-2, “¹ Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, ² As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”

Luke 8:18, “Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.”

B. SLOW TO SPEAK (JAMES 1:19)

Proverbs 10:19, “In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.”

*“The reason a dog has so many friends is because it wags its tail and not its tongue.”
– Paul Chappell*

*“A lie will travel around the world twice while the truth is still putting on its boots.”
– Will Rogers*

“People will believe anything you whisper.” – Dr. Curtis Hutson

C. SLOW TO WRATH (JAMES 1:19)

Hebrews 12:15, “Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;”

Proverbs 14:29, “He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.”

II. THE NEW MAN MUST HIDE THE WORD OF GOD (JAMES 1:21)

Psalms 119:11, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

There are several types of listeners: The **Simple Listener** lets it go in one ear and out the other. The **Wise Listener** tries to figure out how he can apply it to his life. The **Scornful Listener** simply hates the instruction. The attitude we need to have every time we open God’s Word and every time we come to church is *“I need what I am going to hear today.”*

A. LAY ASIDE ALL FILTHINESS (JAMES 1:21)

“Sin will keep us from the Bible and the Bible will keep us from sin.”

B. RECEIVE WITH MEEKNESS THE ENGRAFTED WORD (1:21)

III. THE NEW MAN MUST HEED THE WORD OF GOD (JAMES 1:22)

Romans 8:9, “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”

John 16:13, “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

John 17:17, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

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“The Word of God, Our Spiritual Mirror” (James 1:22-25)

INTRODUCTION: Many of our problems in America today can be traced back to our relationship with the Word of God. The further away we move from God’s Word in this country the more that corruption and crime and sin is going to abound. Most Christians would say that they believe the Bible and believe in God, yet the fact of the matter is that many people who call themselves Christians are approaching the Bible recreationally. Let’s look at some thoughts from the Book of James about our relationship with God’s Word.

I. THE DEMAND (JAMES 1:22)

A. BE YE DOERS

1. This word “doer” is from the Greek word “poietes” meaning a performer or and actor.
2. God is saying that He wants His Word to be our script.

B. AND NOT HEARERS ONLY

“Tell me and I’ll forget. Show me and I’ll remember. Involve me and I’ll understand.” – unknown

II. THE DANGER (JAMES 1:23-24)

III. THE DESIGN

A. LOOK INTO THE BIBLE (JAMES 1:25)

1. The Word “looketh” is the Greek word “parakupto” which means to stoop down and gaze upon.

Psalm 139:23-24, “²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: ²⁴ And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

2. As you are searching the Word of God, the Word of God is searching you.
3. Notice the phrase in James 1:25, “the perfect law of liberty”. Now that seems contradictory to some. Some people are all law and no liberty while others are all liberty and no law.

John 1:14, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

4. True liberty is found in obeying God’s law.

John 8:32, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (Truth = Law / Free = Liberty)

B. DON’T QUIT ON THE BIBLE (JAMES 1:25)

C. REMEMBER WHAT GOD REVEALS (JAMES 1:25)

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“Your Beliefs Determine Your Behavior” (James 2:1-13)

I. WHAT DO WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST? (JAMES 2:1)

A. HE IS THE LORD OF GLORY. (JAMES 2:1)

B. HE IS NOT A RESPECTER OF PERSONS. (JAMES 2:1)

II Peter 3:9, “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

Isaiah 53:3, “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”

II. WHAT DO WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE GRACE OF GOD? (2:5-7)

A. THE REMINDER (JAMES 2:5)

I Corinthians 1:26-27, ²⁶ For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: ²⁷ But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;”

B. THE REPRIMAND (JAMES 2:6-7)

III. WHAT DO WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE WORD OF GOD? (2:8-11)

“Every Bible should be bound in shoe leather.” – Charles Spurgeon

IV. WHAT DO WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE RETURN OF CHRIST? (JAMES 2:12-13)

Romans 8:1, “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

John 5:24, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”

II Corinthians 5:9-10, ⁹ Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

A. OUR WORDS WILL BE JUDGED. (JAMES 2:12)

Matthew 12:36, “But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.”

B. OUR DEEDS WILL BE JUDGED (JAMES 2:12)

Colossians 3:23-25, ²³ And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; ²⁴ Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵ But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.”

C. OUR ATTITUDES WILL BE JUDGED (JAMES 2:13)

Psalms 119:45, “And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts.”

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“An Examination of Faith” (James 2:14-26)

INTRODUCTION: The second chapter of the Book of James speaks a great deal about the subject of faith. In verse one of this chapter we find faith is introduced as a theme in regards to brotherly love in the church. God is concerned that our expression of faith is consistent with His character. God is no respecter of persons, and he desires that His church expresses that attribute as well. Now starting in verse 14 we see that faith is spoken of not merely as the way to be saved, but also in regards to the quality of faith that we live out in our lives. The relationship we have with Christ, by faith, must be evidenced to a lost and dying world.

- 1) We are saved by faith (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- 2) We are to walk by faith (II Corinthians 5:7)
- 3) We please God by faith (Hebrews 11:6)

I. DEAD FAITH (JAMES 2:14-17)

A. DEAD FAITH SUBSTITUTES WORDS FOR DEEDS (JAMES 2:15-16)

Galatians 6:10, “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”

B. DEAD FAITH SUBSTITUTES KNOWLEDGE FOR BELIEF (JAMES 2:17)

II. DEMONIC FAITH (JAMES 2:18-20)

A. THE DEVILS BELIEVE IN GOD (JAMES 2:19)

B. THE DEVILS TREMBLE AT GOD (JAMES 2:19)

“First you receive life and then you reveal that life.” – Paul Chappell

III. DYNAMIC FAITH (JAMES 2:21-26)

A. DYNAMIC FAITH ALWAYS BEGINS WITH THE WORD OF GOD (JAMES 2:21-23)

B. DYNAMIC FAITH INVOLVES THE WHOLE MAN (JAMES 2:24)

I Thessalonians 1:3, “Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;”

C. DYNAMIC FAITH INVOLVES ACTION (JAMES 2:25-26)

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“Fire Danger: HIGH” (James 3:1-6)

INTRODUCTION: By a ranger’s station you will often find a sign that says, “Fire Danger” and it will give a level of danger. If conditions are dry and hot, the sign might say, “Fire Danger: High”. Many Christians should have a “Fire Danger: High” sign on their tongues. The fire danger of the tongue is on High alert whenever we are not controlled by the Holy Spirit. We are going to look in this study about the effects of wrong speech and the effects of right speech, speech that is to the use of edifying. One thing that we need to see is that the tongue and the heart are connected.

Luke 6:45, “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.”

The ultimate battle of the spiritual life is to keep a heart that is tender towards God, to keep a heart that is pure in it’s thoughts, and to keep a heart that is honoring to the Lord Jesus Christ because in so doing, the battle with the tongue will be won (James 1:26). The two major themes of the Book of James are Faith and Wisdom. And we need God’s wisdom if we are going to control our tongue.

I. THE POLICY FOR TEACHING (JAMES 3:1)

Ephesians 4:11-12, “¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”

I Corinthians 12:29-30, “²⁹ Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? ³⁰ Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?”

II. THE PROBLEM OF OUR TONGUE (JAMES 3:2)

A. EVERYONE OFFENDS AT TIMES (JAMES 3:2-A)

Psalm 119:165, “Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.”

B. THE TONGUE IS AN INDICATOR OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY (JAMES 3:2-B)

Luke 6:45, “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.”

III. THE POWER OF THE TONGUE (JAMES 3:3-6)

A. THE BIT IN THE HORSES MOUTH (JAMES 3:3)

Psalm 39:1, “I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me.”

Proverbs 26:4, “Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.”

Proverbs 26:20, “Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.”

B. THE SHIP WITH A VERY SMALL HELM (JAMES 3:4)

C. THE DANGEROUS FIRE (JAMES 3:5-6)

Proverbs 15:4, “A wholesome tongue is a tree of life . . .”

JAMES, A MANUAL FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

“The Power of Speech” (James 3:7-13)

INTRODUCTION: We saw in our last study in verses 1-6 of this chapter that the tongue, though a small member of the body is a very powerful member of the body. Oftentimes the Bible refers to God’s strength as the arm of God. We often measure strength by the arm. A good example of this is in arm wrestling. The winner is considered the stronger of the two. But God is often seen doing the most powerful things, not with his arm, but with his mouth. He spoke the worlds into existence. When the guards came to arrest Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, he asked them who it was they sought. They replied that they sought Jesus of Nazarene.

John 18:6, “As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.”

He didn’t attack them with his hands, but knocked them all down with the power of his words. Now likewise, the Bible teaches that man has great power in the words they speak. We saw that the tongue was compared to the bits in a horse’s mouth. It was then compared to the helm of a ship. And finally it was compared to a great fire. So we see that the tongue that is out of control will harm an individual, a marriage, or a family. It can harm the work place or even an entire church.

“It is better to remain silent and to be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt.” – Abraham Lincoln

I. THE POWER OF OUR SPEECH (JAMES 3:7-8)

A. MAN CAN NOT TAME HIS TONGUE (JAMES 3:8)

Proverbs 21:23, “Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.”

B. GOD CAN TAME OUR TONGUES

Ephesians 4:29, “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”

Matthew 19:26, “. . . With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.”

II. THE PERPLEXITY OF OUR SPEECH (JAMES 3:9-12)

Psalm 19:14, “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.”

Colossians 2:7, “Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.”

Psalm 1:1-4, “¹ Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. ⁴ The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.”

III. THE PROOF OF OUR SPEECH (JAMES 3:13)

Matthew 12:34, “O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.”

JAMES, A MANUAL FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

“The Operation of Heavenly Wisdom” (James 3:13-18)

INTRODUCTION: The Book of James is a book of practical Christianity. It is a book that is written to describe a faith that works. Oftentimes Christians have difficulty taking their faith and making it work in their everyday life. So the Book of James is written so that we can get the mind of Christ and the wisdom of God at work in our everyday life (James 1:5). James defines wisdom as your faith in action (James 3:13). We can define wisdom as the practical application of knowledge in our lives.

I. THE ORIGINS OF WISDOM (JAMES 3:15-17)

A. WISDOM FROM BELOW (JAMES 3:15)

1. Earthly – Measured by numbers, wealth and health
2. Sensual – Measured by feelings and pleasure.
3. Devilish – Measured by the appearance of wickedness as light

Isaiah 5:20, “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”

B. WISDOM FROM ABOVE (JAMES 3:17)

Philippians 3:20, “For our conversation (culture or citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:”

Matthew 6:19-20, “¹⁹ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Proverbs 11:30, “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.”

II. THE OPERATION OF WISDOM

A. THE ATTRIBUTES OF WORLDLY WISDOM (JAMES 3:14)

1. Bitter Envy – Evil Jealousy or Hatred
2. Strife – The Causing of Division

Philippians 2:3, “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”

3. Pride – Glorifying in worldly wisdom

4. Lying – Living a life that is in denial of God’s Word

B. THE ATTRIBUTES OF HEAVENLY WISDOM (JAMES 3:17)

1. Pure – Chaste or Clean
2. Peaceable

Matthew 5:9, “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”

3. Gentle – Sweet Reasonableness
4. Easy to be Intreated - Not Defensive
5. Full of Mercy
6. Full of Good Fruits

John 15:4-5, “⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

7. Without Partiality – Fair in Judgment
8. Without Hypocrisy – Truthful and Sincere

III. THE OUTCOME OF WISDOM (JAMES 3:16-18)

A. THE OUTCOME OF WORLDLY WISDOM (JAMES 3:16)

1. Confusion
2. Evil Works

B. THE OUTCOME OF HEAVENLY WISDOM (JAMES 3:18)

1. Peaceable Living
2. Right Relationships

JAMES, A MANUAL FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

“Victorious Prayer” (James 4:1-10)

INTRODUCTION: If there is anything that we need to learn in life it is how to pray. The man who can pray can do anything because prayer can do anything God can do and God can do anything. And our greatest need in these desperate times is to link our lives with the omnipotent God who has called upon us to pray. Jesus says, *“Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full,”* and James says, *“. . . ye have not, because ye ask not.”* You don’t have a failure in your life, but what it is a prayer failure. You don’t have a sin in your life, but what prayer could have prevented that sin. You don’t have a genuine need in your life but what that need could have been met through fervent, believing prayer. We need to learn how to pray.

I. THE PRESUMPTION OF UNOFFERED PRAYER (JAMES 4:1-2)

I Samuel 12:23, “. . . God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you. . .”

I Thessalonians 5:17, “Pray without ceasing.”

Luke 18:1, “And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;”

Mark 14:38, “Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.”

*“Prayer will make a man cease from sin, and sin will entice a man to cease from prayer.”
John Bunyan*

II. THE PROBLEM OF UNACCEPTABLE PRAYER (JAMES 4:3-4)

II Corinthians 11:2, “For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”

Philippians 4:19, “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

III. THE PRINCIPLES OF UNDENIABLE PRAYER

A. SENSITIVITY TO THE SPIRIT (JAMES 4:5)

Exodus 20:3, 5, “³ Thou shalt have no other gods before me . . . ⁵ Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God . . .”

Colossians 1:18, “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”

Romans 8:26, “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”

B. SUBMISSION TO THE FATHER (JAMES 4:6-7)

I John 5:14, “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:”

C. STANDING AGAINST THE DEVIL (JAMES 4:7)

I John 4:4, “. . . greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

“The Devil will get you to read the Bible if it will keep you from praying.” – Adrian Rogers

D. SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD (JAMES 4:8)

Jeremiah 29:13, “And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”

Psalms 66:18, “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:”

E. SERIOUSNESS AND SOBERNESS IN OUR PURPOSE (JAMES 4:9; 5:16)

II Kings 20:5, “. . . Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee . . .”

JAMES, A MANUAL FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

“How to Approach God” (James 4:8-10)

INTRODUCTION: We are going to study how we can approach God. How can we approach the King of kings and Lord of lords? Now if you’ve studied the scriptures at all, you know that any one of us can approach Christ at any time in our daily life (James 4:8). While the passage we are looking at in this study doesn’t have to do with prayer, it does have to do with the attitude in which we are to approach God. How are we to approach God?

I. APPROACH GOD WITH CLEANSSED HANDS (JAMES 4:8)

II Corinthians 7:1, “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

II. APPROACH GOD WITH A CONFESSED HEART (JAMES 4:8)

A. THE PURIFYING OF THE HEART

Psalm 139:23-24, “²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: ²⁴ And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

B. THE PRAYER OF ADMISSION (I JOHN 1:9)

Psalm 66:18, “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:”

I Samuel 16:7, “. . . the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.”

I Corinthians 11:27-31, “²⁷ Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. ²⁹ For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. ³⁰ For this cause many are

weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. ³¹ For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.”

III. APPROACH GOD WITH A CONTRITE SPIRIT

A. A HEART OF CONTRITION (JAMES 4:9)

Psalm 30:5, “. . . weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.”

Psalm 126:6, “He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.”

II Timothy 3:1-5, “¹ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

Psalm 42:1, “As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1 & 4, “¹ To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven . . . ⁴ A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;”

B. A HEART OF HUMILITY (JAMES 4:10)

JAMES, A MANUAL FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

“Because Life is But a Vapor” (James 4:11-17)

Psalm 90:10, “The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”

INTRODUCTION: The Bible tells us that the average man lives to be about 70 years old. It may be that you live to be 80 or even 90 but the Psalm 90:10 tells us that at that point our life will soon be cut off and we will fly away.

Psalm 90:12, “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”

I. BECAUSE LIFE IS A VAPOR, LET’S REFRAIN FROM EVIL SPEAKING

A. GOSSIP IS EVIL SPEAKING (JAMES 4:11)

I Peter 4:8, “And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.”

There is an order in which the Bible tells us how to handle offenses:

1. First, we are to have the kind of love that covers the multitude of sins.
2. Second, if we can’t do that, we are to go to that person who has offended us (Matthew 18:15-19).

Matthew 18:15, “Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.”

3. Third, we need to examine our own hearts.

Galatians 6:1, “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”

“To speak evil of a brother and to judge a brother on the basis of partial evidence and probably unkind motives is to sin against him and God.” – Warren Wiersbe.

B. GOD IS THE ONLY JUDGE (JAMES 4:12)

II. BECAUSE LIFE IS A VAPOR, LET’S RELINQUISH OUR PLANS FOR GOD’S WILL

A. THE PLANS OF THE SELF-WILLED CHRISTIAN (JAMES 4:13)

B. THE PROBLEM OF THE FORGETFUL CHRISTIAN (4:14-15)

Proverbs 27:1, “Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.”

Daniel 3:16-18, “¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. ¹⁷ If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.”

Job 1:21, “And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.”

III. BECAUSE LIFE IS A VAPOR, LET’S REVIEW OUR LIFE DECISIONS (JAMES 4:17)

A. WHAT DO I KNOW TO BE RIGHT?

B. WHAT DECISIONS HAVE I MADE IN THE PAST?

“Man proposes, but God disposes.” – Paul Chappell

JAMES, A MANUAL FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

“The Wasting of Wealth” (James 5:1-6)

INTRODUCTION: In James chapter 4 we saw that God is giving each and everyone of us a warning about the brevity of time (James 4:15). It’s easy for all of us to waste time chasing after our own plans rather than allowing God to lead our lives. So God reminded us in the last chapter to keep the proper priorities in this short life we live. It can be a difficult task to maintain heavenly priorities in this earthly life but we must do it.

Now as we look into chapter 5, James is going to take this subject further by showing us the vanity and emptiness of the man who would be wealthy in this world and yet not living for godly priorities. It becomes a temptation for us to look at the ungodly man who seems to have no cares and lots of money and wonder why we have so little. So James is going to give us a reminder here that the grass is not always greener on the other side.

“Sometimes the grass that seems greener on the other side is really just artificial turf.” – unknown

I. THE WARNING TO THE WEALTHY (JAMES 5:1, 5)

A. RICHES CAN PRODUCE A FALSE ANTICIPATION IN LIFE (JAMES 5:1)

B. RICHES CAN PRODUCE A FALSE VALUE SYSTEM IN LIFE (JAMES 5:5)

I Timothy 6:6-10, “⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. ⁹ But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

II. THE WASTING OF THE WEALTH (JAMES 5:2-3)

A. WEALTH AND POSSESSIONS WILL CORRUPT (JAMES 5:2)

B. WEALTH AND POSSESSIONS WILL TESTIFY AGAINST THE CORRUPTED (JAMES 5:3)

“The last years of our lives should be given into thought of how much we can give, not how much we can keep.” – Lehman Strauss

John 9:4, “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”

III. THE WATCHMEN OF THE WEARY (JAMES 5:4)

A. THERE WERE THOSE WHO HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN CARE OF

B. THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN WHO KNOWS OUR NEEDS (JAMES 5:4)

Psalm 34:15-19, “¹⁵ The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. ¹⁶ The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. ¹⁷ The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. ¹⁸ The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. ¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.”

JAMES, A MANUAL FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

“How to Wait for the Rapture” (James 5:7-11)

INTRODUCTION: The Book of James along with the Books of I & II Peter and I, II & III John really revolve around the theme of prophecy and especially near the end of those books. In fact, you will find that in a lot of the New Testament Books. Jude, in his epistle, writes about the fact that we are to be faithful in light of the soon coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Here in the Book of James we see this same pattern as near the end we are given various admonitions in the light of the Return of Jesus Christ.

Titus 2:13, “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;”

James gives 3 examples to teach us how we are to wait for the rapture:

I. WE ARE TO BE WORKING LIKE A FARMER

A. A FARMER WORKS PATIENTLY (JAMES 5:7)

B. A FARMER WORKS DILIGENTLY (JAMES 5:8)

Colossians 2:6-7, “⁶ As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: ⁷ Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.”

II Timothy 2:15, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

C. A FARMER WORKS WITH MATURITY (JAMES 5:9)

Philippians 3:12-13, “¹² Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.¹³ Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended . . .”

II. WE ARE TO BE WITNESSING LIKE A PROPHET (JAMES 5:10)

A. THEY WITNESSED THROUGH THEIR SUFFERING (HEBREWS 11:32-40)

B. THEY WITNESSED THROUGH THEIR PATIENCE

III. WE ARE TO BE WAITING LIKE JOB (JAMES 5:11)

A. JOB WAITED WITH TRUST

Job 13:15, “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.”

B. JOB WAITED WITH HOPE

Job 42:12, “So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.”

JAMES, A MANUAL FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

“The Golden Art of Conversation” (James 5:12 & Matthew 5:33-37)

INTRODUCTION: There is a closer connection between James 5:12 and the subject of the oppression of the hireling, already dealt with in this chapter, than one might think at first glance. James is instructing his readers that under the galling pressure of injury and oppression one is tempted to the use of making unwise and impure oaths, as an outlet, so James warns them of the error of this kind of thinking. The Christian life is not lived by making promises to God, but rather it is lived by believing on the promises He has made to us. It is important to notice that this verse is merely an echo of words spoken on the Mount by the illustrious Brother of James, as recorded in Matthew 5:33-37. So James will once again deal with the recurring subject of our speech.

Proverb 25:11, “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.”

I. PURE SPEECH (JAMES 5:12) “. . . swear not. . .”

Genesis 28:20-22, “²⁰ And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, ²¹ So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: ²² And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.”

Proverbs 20:25, “It is a snare to the man who devoureth that which is holy, and after vows to make enquiry.”

Judges 11:30, “³⁰ And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, If thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands, ³¹ Then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD'S, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.”

Hebrews 11:6, “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

II. PLAIN SPEECH (JAMES 5:12) “. . . let your yea be yea. . .”

- A. INTEGRITY
- B. UNADORNED

Matthew 6:5, “And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.”

Luke 10:40-42, “⁴⁰ But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. ⁴¹ And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: ⁴² But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”

III. PROPER SPEECH

- A. HOLY (JAMES 5:12) “. . . my brethren. . .”
- B. FROM THE RIGHT SOURCE (MATTHEW 5:37) “. . . whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil. . .”

Luke 11:11-13, “¹¹ If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? ¹² Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”

IV. PRECAUTIOUS SPEECH (JAMES 5:12) “lest ye fall into condemnation.”

Ephesians 4:30, “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

JAMES, A MANUAL FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

“Pray at All Times” (James 5:13-18)

I. PRAY WHEN AFFLICTED (JAMES 5:13)

Matthew 11:28-30, “²⁸ Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Psalms 34:6, “This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.”

II. PRAY WHEN SICK (JAMES 5:14-15)

A. THE METHOD (JAMES 5:14-15)

B. THE CONDITION (JAMES 5:16)

Matthew 5:23-24, “²³ Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; ²⁴ Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.”

III. PRAY WHEN THRIVING (JAMES 5:13)
