



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

James (Part-10) (Review, Ch.1-5)

Trials &
Temptations (1)

Word of God (1)

Faith + Works (2)

Partiality (2)

(Ab)Use of Tongue
(3)

True Wisdom (3)

Covetousness (4)

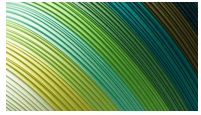
Illusion of Riches
(5)

Healing (5)

Restoration (5)

What insights,
questions,
comments do you
have?

How has the study
of James impacted
your daily life?



Epistle of James

Timing: around 45-50 AD

Author: James, brother of Jesus

Themes: (1) Be doers of God's word; (2) Good works must flow from our faith.

You will be Blessed, if:

**You Respond to
Trials with Joy**

**You are swift to
hear, slow to
speak, and slow to
wrath**

**You are just and
impartial**

**Your faith is
accompanied by
good works**

**You are Doer
of the Word**

**You control your
tongue**

**You are able to see
your faults (rather
than judge others)**

**Your life is aligned
with God's will**

**You are not
pursuing money**

**You strive for
righteous living**

You Pray

**You encourage and
restore weak
believers**

Ascending Blessing of Trials (1:3,4,12)

Trials (from
God) test
our faith

ENDURE

With
Joy + wisdom

Blessed with

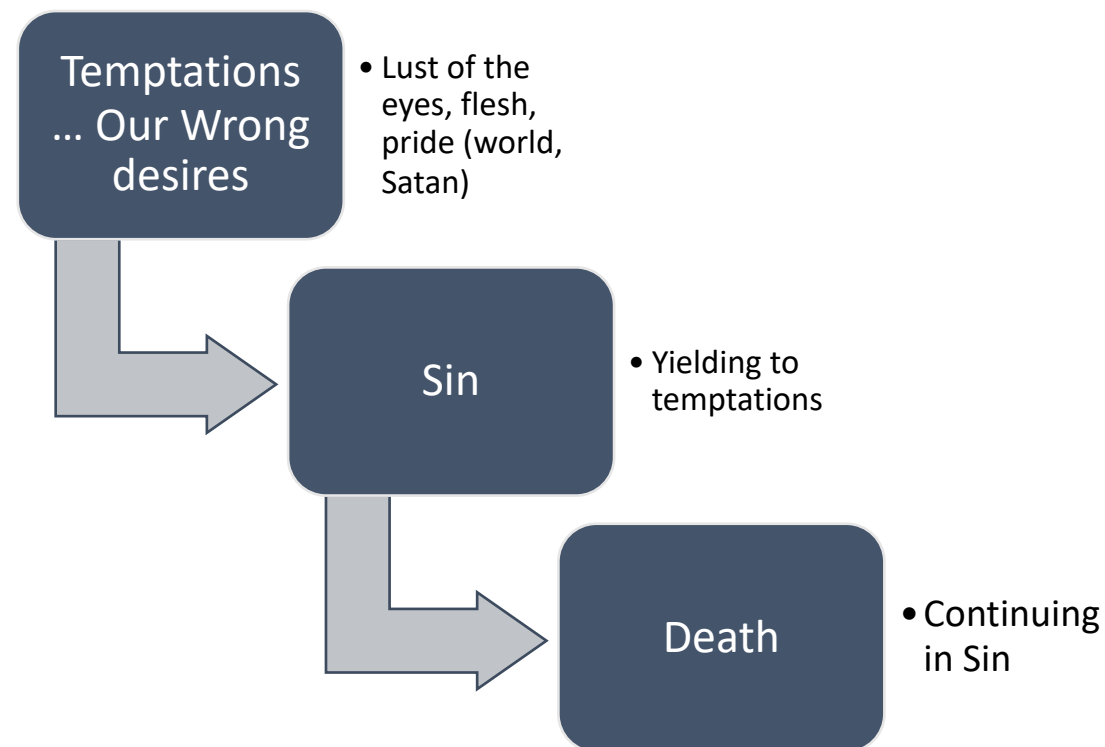
Maturity,

Crown of Life*

(James 1:12, Revelation 2:10)

Downward spiral of temptations

1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.



Be swift to hear, slow to
speak, slow to wrath
(1:19-20)

be doers of the Word,
and not hearers only 1:22)

Pure religion

Pure religion is centered on love.

Pure religion fulfills the two greatest commandments,

Loving God (by maintaining a spotless testimony) and

Loving others (by being sensitive to the needy, such as fatherless & widows)

²⁷ Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Partiality

taming of our tongues

Heavenly & earthly wisdom

Chapter 2 & 3

Partiality is a sin (2:1-9)

- It violates God's commandment to love our neighbors
- It is not consistent with the character of God
- It is disrespectful to fellow humans created by God in His image



Dead Faith is:

Faith without Feelings
Faith without Empathy
Faith without convictions
Faith without boldness
Faith without value

Faith without works is dead (2:20)

Words/Texts/Tweets matter ...

Words can
destroy/damage ...
Relationships,
Reputation, Self-
esteem, etc.

Words can build ...
encourage, comfort,
strengthen, correct,
inspire, heal, reconcile,
forgive, etc.

The Power of Tongue

⁵ Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell

Tongue is a small part of body but exercises great influence, for better or for worse

If unchecked, tongue corrupts whole body.
~1:26-27, 1:19

Who am I? a worshipper or a curser or both?

⁹With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. ¹⁰**Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing.** My brethren,

these things ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring send forth fresh *water* and bitter from the same opening? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? [g]Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

Worshipping and Cursing ...
Must not co-exist in a believer's life

Why guard
our
mouth?

We will be judged



But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned (Mathew 12:36-37)

1

Recognize we have
a problem

2

Confess and
Seek God's help

3

**Obey God's
prescription**

How do we fix our sins of tongue?
(and other sins)

Earthly Wisdom (3:15-16)

¹⁵ This wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, demonic **16** For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there

Is Earthly, Sensual, Demonic

Earthly wisdom leads to confusion & Evil

Heavenly Wisdom leads to peace (17-18)

Pure ... holy or devoid of sin, pure intent

Peaceable ... produces peace, not conflict

Gentle .. mild or meek

Willing to yield ... not stubborn (like the mule) or unteachable

Merciful... wiling to forgive rather than judge/ condemn/punish

Good Fruits/works

No partiality

No hypocrisy

Strife among believers & God willing

Chapter 4

Not others

Source of Strife?

Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires* for pleasure that war in your members? (4:1)

But You

- Your (ungodly) Desires
- Your war (conflict between flesh & spirit)
- Your worldly perspective

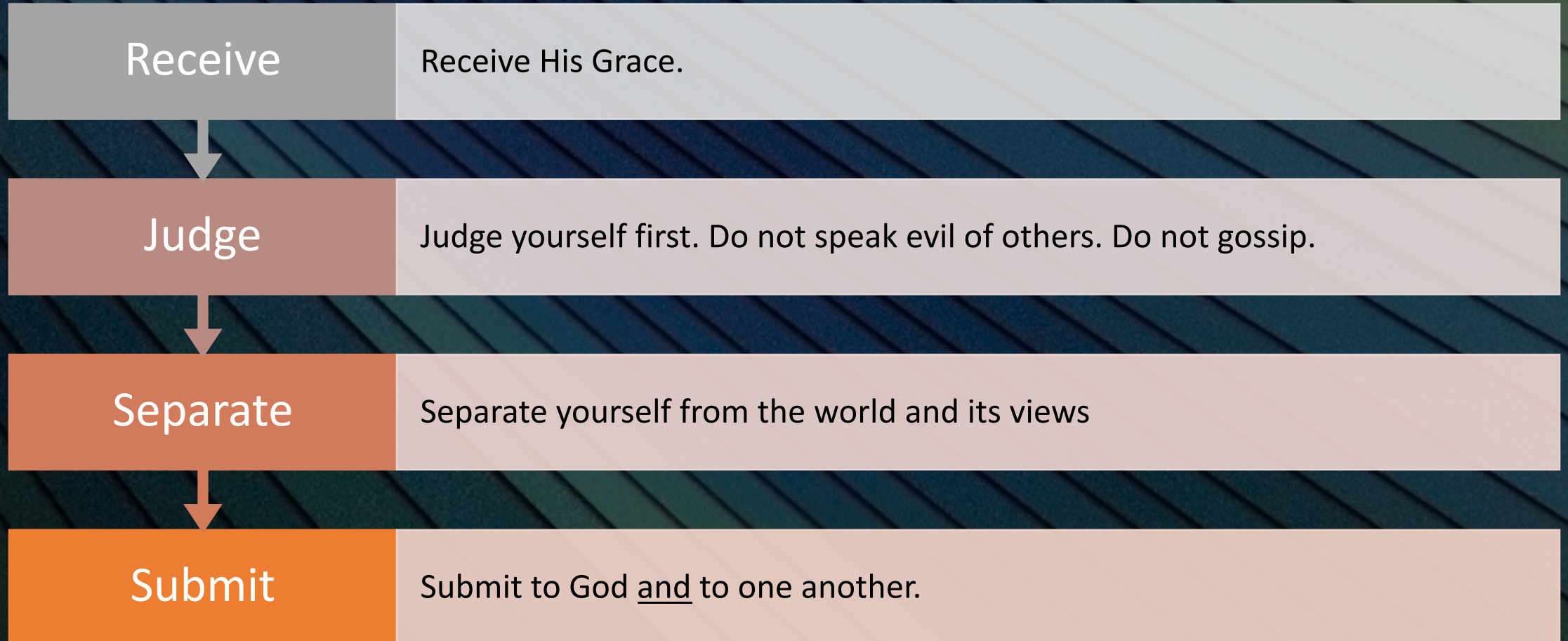
Goal of
church
discipline
(Mathew
18:15-17)

Member: To spiritually benefit the member guilty of sin

- **Restoration**, not condemnation (or excommunication)
- Restore to fellowship, once corrective active taken.

Church: To maintain the testimony of church

How to resolve strife?



Draw near to God... sins of heart & hand

⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. ⁹ Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. (4:8-10)

Clean Hands (symbolizes external dealings ... what we do?)

Pure Hearts (symbolizes internal thoughts ... what we think?)

Deal with sins immediately (lament, mourn and weep) (True Repentance ... an intent to not repeat)

Man's plan ... looks very logical.



Time: Today or
Tomorrow



Destination: City



Duration of stay:
One year



Goal: To make a
profit

God's response to man's plan

This is your boasting.
All such boasting is
evil (16)

“Thou, fool!”
Luke 12:20

Our (new)
plan ought
to be ...

God willing,

we will live and we shall do this or that (15)

Complaints against oppressive Rich
Response of Oppressed poor
Lessons from farmer
Health, Prayer, Confession
Restoration

Chapter 5

Complaints against the rich (ch.5)

Love of riches leading to ...

Hoarding of riches (3)

Mistreatment of laborers/cheating (4)

Excessive/luxury consumption (5)

Killing of the innocent (6)

God is Just
and expects
us to be Just

Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne:
mercy and truth shall go before thy face (**Psalms 89:14**)

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what
doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love
mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? (**Micah 6:8**)

Prescription to the Oppressed

Be Patient

Don't grumble

Strengthen your hearts

Lessons from the farmer

Invests in the Future: Sows the seed

Exercises Stewardship: Labors in the field, waters, protects the field

Exercises Patience: Waits patiently for the outcome

Exercises Faith: Outcome/harvest not in his hands (controlled by God)

No need for swearing in
daily conversations (12)

Speak the truth, always!



Some reasons for our physical sickness



Curse of Adam's sin and old age

Due to personal sins

Satanic attack

For our spiritual growth and For His glory

The righteous man

The effectual fervent
prayer of a righteous
man availeth much
(16)

Our righteousness comes from God through Christ

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 3:10 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. **II Corinthians 5:21**

Imputed righteousness of Christ does not give us the freedom to live unrighteous lives. We must pursue a lifestyle of righteousness

“Job was perfect and up right, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil” (**Job 1:1**)

Some reasons for unanswered prayers

- Praying with unconfessed sin (Isaiah 59:1-2)
- Praying for wrong things (James 4:3)
- Seeking answers before the fulness of time (Galatians 4:4)
- Praying without faith (James 1:6)

Keys to effective prayer & Blessing

Pray in Faith (James 1:6, 5:15 Hebrews 11:6)

Be fervent (serious, intense, passionate) (16)
(such as Daniel, Moses, Hannah)

Be righteous (16) (imputed righteousness of
Christ + our righteous living) (Job 1:1)

Blessing: avails much!

Prescription for Healing

Physical Sickness

Prayer
+ faith
+ oil (medicine)

* Repeat until healed or God's will revealed

Spiritual Sickness

Confession

* Only one true confession needed

Ministry of restoration

Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins (19, 20)

Restore other believers, in love, using the wisdom of scriptures

Correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction (II Timothy 4:2, NIV)

Change yourself, Change others

Are you a
progressing
Believer?

Progress in our spiritual life leads to **Satisfaction** in this life and **Reward** at the end.

Progress requires being
“doers of God’s Word”
(James 1:22)

Next Wednesday, July 27
Personal Bible Study

BETHANY BIBLE STUDY RESUMES WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3

God willing, we will begin Paul's epistle to the Thessalonians



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

James (Part-10) (Review, Ch.1-5)

Trials &
Temptations (1)

Word of God (1)

Faith + Works (2)

Partiality (2)

(Ab)Use of Tongue
(3)

True Wisdom (3)

Covetousness (4)

Illusion of Riches
(5)

Healing (5)

Restoration (5)

What insights,
questions,
comments do you
have?

How has the study
of James impacted
your daily life?