

JAMES

James 1:1 From James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. To all of God's people who are scattered everywhere in the world:

Who was James?

The brother of our Lord (most likely "James")

Matthew 13:55-56 He is just the son of a carpenter. His mother is Mary, and his brothers are James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas. ⁵⁶ And all his sisters are here with us. Where then does this man get all these things?"

Acts 1:14 They all continued praying together with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and Jesus' brothers.

1 Corinthians 15:7 Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles.

Galatians 2:9 James, Peter, and John, who seemed to be the leaders, understood that God had given me this special grace, so they accepted Barnabas and me. They agreed that they would go to the Jewish people and that we should go to those who are not Jewish.

TURNING TRIALS INTO TRIUMPHS

A Joyful Attitude

James 1:2 My brothers and sisters, when you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy,

Acts 14:22 making the followers of Jesus stronger and helping them stay in the faith. They said, "We must suffer many things to enter God's kingdom."

1 Peter 4:12 My friends, do not be surprised at the terrible trouble which now comes to test you. Do not think that something strange is happening to you.

An Understanding Mind

James 1:3 because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you patience.

1 Peter 1:7 These troubles come to prove that your faith is pure. This purity of faith is worth more than gold, which can be proved to be pure by fire but will ruin. But the purity of your faith will bring you praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is shown to you.

Romans 8:28 We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him. They are the people he called, because that was his plan.

2 Corinthians 4:17 We have small troubles for a while now, but they are helping us gain an eternal glory that is much greater than the troubles.

A Surrendered Will

James 1:4, 9-12 Let your patience show itself perfectly in what you do. Then you will be perfect and complete and will have everything you need. ⁹ Believers who are poor should take pride that God has made them spiritually rich. ¹⁰ Those who are rich should take pride that God has shown them that they are spiritually poor. The rich will die like a wild flower in the grass. ¹¹ The sun rises with burning heat and dries up the plants. The flower falls off, and its beauty is gone. In the same way the rich will die while they are still taking care of business.

A Believing Heart

James 1:5-8 But if any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He is generous to everyone and will give you wisdom without criticizing you. ⁶ But when you ask God, you must believe and not doubt. Anyone who doubts is like a wave in the sea, blown up and down by the wind. ⁷⁻⁸ Such doubters are thinking two different things at the same time, and they cannot decide about anything they do. They should not think they will receive anything from the Lord.

HOW TO HANDLE TEMPTATION

James 1:13-16 When people are tempted, they should not say, “God is tempting me.” Evil cannot tempt God, and God himself does not tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But people are tempted when their own evil desire leads them away and traps them. ¹⁵ This desire leads to sin, and then the sin grows and brings death. ¹⁶ My dear brothers and sisters, do not be fooled about this.

Desire
Deception
Disobedience
Death

Consider God’s Goodness

James 1:17 Every good action and every perfect gift is from God. These good gifts come down from the Creator of the sun, moon, and stars, who does not change like their shifting shadows.

God gives only good gifts
The way God gives is good
He gives constantly
God does not change

Consider God’s Divine Nature Within

James 1:18 God decided to give us life through the word of truth so we might be the most important of all the things he made.

It is divine – direct from God
It is gracious – only by grace, not earned
It is through God’s Word
It is the finest birth possible

QUIT KIDDING YOURSELF

Receive the Word

James 1:19-21 My dear brothers and sisters, always be willing to listen and slow to speak. Do not become angry easily, ²⁰ because anger will not help you live the right kind of life God wants. ²¹ So put out of your life every evil thing and every kind of wrong. Then in gentleness accept God's teaching that is planted in your hearts, which can save you.

Swift to hear
Slow to speak
Slow to wrath
A prepared heart

Practice the Word

James 1:22-25 Do what God's teaching says; when you only listen and do nothing, you are fooling yourselves. ²³ Those who hear God's teaching and do nothing are like people who look at themselves in a mirror. ²⁴ They see their faces and then go away and quickly forget what they looked like. ²⁵ But the truly happy people are those who carefully study God's perfect law that makes people free, and they continue to study it. They do not forget what they heard, but they obey what God's teaching says. Those who do this will be made happy.

Perfect law that makes people free – when we obey it, God sets us free.

2 Corinthians 3:18 Our faces, then, are not covered. We all show the Lord's glory, and we are being changed to be like him. This change in us brings ever greater glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Share the Word

James 1:26-27 People who think they are religious but say things they should not say are just fooling themselves. Their "religion" is worth nothing. ²⁷ Religion that God accepts as pure and without fault is this: caring for orphans or widows who need help, and keeping yourself free from the world's evil influence.

Speech
Service
Separation from the world

The Deity of Christ

James 2:1-4 My dear brothers and sisters, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, never think some people are more important than others. ² Suppose someone comes into your church meeting wearing nice clothes and a gold ring. At the same time a poor person comes in wearing old, dirty clothes. ³ You show special attention to the one wearing nice clothes and say, “Please, sit here in this good seat.” But you say to the poor person, “Stand over there,” or, “Sit on the floor by my feet.” ⁴ What are you doing? You are making some people more important than others, and with evil thoughts you are deciding that one person is better.

Matthew 22:16 They sent some of their own followers and some people from the group called Herodians. They said, “Teacher, we know that you are an honest man and that you teach the truth about God’s way. You are not afraid of what other people think about you, because you pay no attention to who they are.

Acts 9:26-28 When Saul went to Jerusalem, he tried to join the group of followers, but they were all afraid of him. They did not believe he was really a follower. ²⁷ But Barnabas accepted Saul and took him to the apostles. Barnabas explained to them that Saul had seen the Lord on the road and the Lord had spoken to Saul. Then he told them how boldly Saul had preached in the name of Jesus in Damascus. ²⁸ And so Saul stayed with the followers, going everywhere in Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.

Jesus was despised and rejected

Isaiah 53:1-3 Who would have believed what we heard? Who saw the Lord’s power in this? ² He grew up like a small plant before the Lord, like a root growing in a dry land. He had no special beauty or form to make us notice him; there was nothing in his appearance to make us desire him. ³ He was hated and rejected by people. He had much pain and suffering. People would not even look at him. He was hated, and we didn’t even notice him.

John 7:24 Stop judging by the way things look, but judge by what is really right.

The Grace of God

James 2:5-7 Listen, my dear brothers and sisters! God chose the poor in the world to be rich with faith and to receive the kingdom God promised to those who love him. ⁶ But you show no respect to the poor. The rich are always trying to control your lives. They are the ones who take you to court. ⁷ And they are the ones who speak against Jesus, who owns you.

Ephesians 1:4-7 That is, in Christ, he chose us before the world was made so that we would be his holy people—people without blame before him. ⁵ Because of his love, God had already decided to make us his own children through Jesus Christ. That was what he wanted and what pleased him, ⁶ and it brings praise to God because of his wonderful grace. God gave that grace to us freely, in Christ, the One he loves. ⁷ In Christ we are set free by the blood of his death, and so we have forgiveness of sins. How rich is God’s grace,

Ephesians 2:8-10 I mean that you have been saved by grace through believing. You did not save yourselves; it was a gift from God. ⁹ It was not the result of your own efforts, so you

cannot brag about it. ¹⁰ God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing.

The Word of God

James 2:8-11 This royal law is found in the Scriptures: “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” If you obey this law, you are doing right. ⁹ But if you treat one person as being more important than another, you are sinning. You are guilty of breaking God’s law. ¹⁰ A person who follows all of God’s law but fails to obey even one command is guilty of breaking all the commands in that law. ¹¹ The same God who said, “You must not be guilty of adultery,” also said, “You must not murder anyone.” So if you do not take part in adultery but you murder someone, you are guilty of breaking all of God’s law.

John 13:34 I give you a new command: Love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.

Romans 5:5 And this hope will never disappoint us, because God has poured out his love to fill our hearts. He gave us his love through the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to us.

1 Thessalonians 4:9 We do not need to write you about having love for your Christian family, because God has already taught you to love each other.

The Judgment of God

James 2:12-13 In everything you say and do, remember that you will be judged by the law that makes people free. ¹³ So you must show mercy to others, or God will not show mercy to you when he judges you. But the person who shows mercy can stand without fear at the judgment.

John 5:24 I tell you the truth, whoever hears what I say and believes in the One who sent me has eternal life. That person will not be judged guilty but has already left death and entered life.

Our words will be judged

Matthew 12:36 And I tell you that on the Judgment Day people will be responsible for every careless thing they have said.

Our deeds will be judged

Colossians 3:22-25 Slaves, obey your masters in all things. Do not obey just when they are watching you, to gain their favor, but serve them honestly, because you respect the Lord. ²³ In all the work you are doing, work the best you can. Work as if you were doing it for the Lord, not for people. ²⁴ Remember that you will receive your reward from the Lord, which he promised to his people. You are serving the Lord Christ. ²⁵ But remember that anyone who does wrong will be punished for that wrong, and the Lord treats everyone the same.

Our attitudes will be judged

Psalms 119:45 So I will live in freedom, because I want to follow your orders.

FALSE FAITH

Dead Faith

James 2:14-17 My brothers and sisters, if people say they have faith, but do nothing, their faith is worth nothing. Can faith like that save them? ¹⁵ A brother or sister in Christ might need clothes or food. ¹⁶ If you say to that person, “God be with you! I hope you stay warm and get plenty to eat,” but you do not give what that person needs, your words are worth nothing. ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself—that does nothing—is dead.

Matthew 7:21 Not all those who say ‘You are our Lord’ will enter the kingdom of heaven. The only people who will enter the kingdom of heaven are those who do what my Father in heaven wants.

Matthew 6:31 Don’t worry and say, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’

Galatians 5:6 When we are in Christ Jesus, it is not important if we are circumcised or not. The important thing is faith—the kind of faith that works through love.

Demonic Faith

James 2:18-19 Someone might say, “You have faith, but I have deeds.” Show me your faith without doing anything, and I will show you my faith by what I do. ¹⁹ You believe there is one God. Good! But the demons believe that, too, and they tremble with fear.

Deuteronomy 6:4 Listen, people of Israel! The Lord our God is the only Lord.

Ephesians 2:10 God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing.

Dynamic Faith

James 2:20-26 You foolish person! Must you be shown that faith that does nothing is worth nothing? ²¹ Abraham, our ancestor, was made right with God by what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar. ²² So you see that Abraham’s faith and the things he did worked together. His faith was made perfect by what he did. ²³ This shows the full meaning of the Scripture that says: “Abraham believed God, and God accepted Abraham’s faith, and that faith made him right with God.” And Abraham was called God’s friend. ²⁴ So you see that people are made right with God by what they do, not by faith only. ²⁵ Another example is Rahab, a prostitute, who was made right with God by something she did. She welcomed the spies into her home and helped them escape by a different road. ²⁶ Just as a person’s body that does not have a spirit is dead, so faith that does nothing is dead!

Titus 1:16 They say they know God, but their actions show they do not accept him. They are hateful people, they refuse to obey, and they are useless for doing anything good.

THE WORST TROUBLEMAKER IS SMALL

Power to Direct: The Bit and Rudder

James 3:1-4 My brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ² We all make many mistakes. If people never said anything wrong, they would be perfect and able to control their entire selves, too. ³ When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can control their whole bodies. ⁴ Also a ship is very big, and it is pushed by strong winds. But a very small rudder controls that big ship, making it go wherever the pilot wants.

Proverbs 18:21 What you say can mean life or death. Those who speak with care will be rewarded.

Psalms 141:3-4 Lord, help me control my tongue; help me be careful about what I say. ⁴ Take away my desire to do evil or to join others in doing wrong. Don't let me eat tasty food with those who do evil.

Matthew 12:34 You snakes! You are evil people, so how can you say anything good? The mouth speaks the things that are in the heart.

Proverbs 15:1 A gentle answer will calm a person's anger, but an unkind answer will cause more anger.

Proverbs 12:22 The Lord hates those who tell lies but is pleased with those who keep their promises.

Power to Destroy: The Fire and Animal

James 3:5-8 It is the same with the tongue. It is a small part of the body, but it brags about great things. A big forest fire can be started with only a little flame. ⁶ And the tongue is like a fire. It is a whole world of evil among the parts of our bodies. The tongue spreads its evil through the whole body. The tongue is set on fire by hell, and it starts a fire that influences all of life. ⁷ People can tame every kind of wild animal, bird, reptile, and fish, and they have tamed them, ⁸ but no one can tame the tongue. It is wild and evil and full of deadly poison.

Proverbs 26:20-21 Without wood, a fire will go out, and without gossip, quarreling will stop. ²¹ Just as charcoal and wood keep a fire going, a quarrelsome person keeps an argument going.

Matthew 11:19 The Son of Man came, eating and drinking, and people say, 'Look at him! He eats too much and drinks too much wine, and he is a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is proved to be right by what she does."

Colossians 4:6 When you talk, you should always be kind and pleasant so you will be able to answer everyone in the way you should.

Power to Delight: The Spring and Tree

James 3:9-12 We use our tongues to praise our Lord and Father, but then we curse people, whom God made like himself. ¹⁰ Praises and curses come from the same mouth! My brothers and sisters, this should not happen. ¹¹ Do good and bad water flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree make olives, or can a grapevine make figs? No! And a well full of salty water cannot give good water.

Proverbs 18:4 Spoken words can be like deep water, but wisdom is like a flowing stream.

Romans 15:32 Then, if God wants me to, I will come to you with joy, and together you and I will have a time of rest.

1 Corinthians 16:18 They have refreshed my spirit and yours. You should recognize the value of people like these.

John 6:63 It is the Spirit that gives life. The flesh doesn't give life. The words I told you are spirit, and they give life.

Proverbs 4:23 Be careful what you think, because your thoughts run your life.

WHERE TO GET WISDOM

Proverbs 4:7 Wisdom is the most important thing; so get wisdom. If it costs everything you have, get understanding.

Different Origins

James 3:15, 17a That kind of “wisdom” does not come from God but from the world. It is not spiritual; it is from the devil. ¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from God is first of all pure, then peaceful, gentle, and easy to please...

Ephesians 2:1-3 In the past you were spiritually dead because of your sins and the things you did against God. ² Yes, in the past you lived the way the world lives, following the ruler of the evil powers that are above the earth. That same spirit is now working in those who refuse to obey God. ³ In the past all of us lived like them, trying to please our sinful selves and doing all the things our bodies and minds wanted. We should have suffered God's anger because we were sinful by nature. We were the same as all other people.

1 Corinthians 1:20-21 Where is the wise person? Where is the educated person? Where is the skilled talker of this world? God has made the wisdom of the world foolish. ²¹ In the wisdom of God the world did not know God through its own wisdom. So God chose to use the message that sounds foolish to save those who believe.

Proverbs 9:10 Wisdom begins with respect for the Lord, and understanding begins with knowing the Holy One.

Different Operations

James 3:13-14, 17 Are there those among you who are truly wise and understanding? Then they should show it by living right and doing good things with a gentleness that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you are selfish and have bitter jealousy in your hearts, do not brag. Your bragging is a lie that hides the truth. ¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from God is first of all pure, then peaceful, gentle, and easy to please. This wisdom is always ready to help those who are troubled and to do good for others. It is always fair and honest.

Selfishness

James 3:14a **But if you are selfish**

Bitter Jealousy

James 3:14b **and have bitter jealousy in your hearts**

Bragging

James 3:14c **do not brag**

Deceit

James 3:14d **Your bragging is a lie that hides the truth**

Gentleness

James 3:13 **a gentleness that comes from wisdom**

Purity

James 3:17a **But the wisdom that comes from God is first of all pure**

Peace

James 3:17b **then peaceful**

Gentleness

James 3:17c **gentle**

Agreeable

James 3:17d **and easy to please**

Mercy

James 3:17c **help those who are troubled**

Good fruits

James 3:17f **do good for others**

Fairness

James 3:17g **It is always fair**

Honesty

James 3:17h **and honest**

Different Outcomes

James 3:16, 18 Where jealousy and selfishness are, there will be confusion and every kind of evil. ¹⁸ People who work for peace in a peaceful way plant a good crop of right-living.

God's wisdom produces blessings

James 3:18 People who work for peace in a peaceful way plant a good crop of right-living.

Proverbs 3:13 Happy is the person who finds wisdom, the one who gets understanding.

HOW TO END WARS

At War With Each Other

James 4:1a Do you know where your fights and arguments come from?

James 4:11-12 Brothers and sisters, do not tell evil lies about each other. If you speak against your fellow believers or judge them, you are judging and speaking against the law they follow. And when you are judging the law, you are no longer a follower of the law. You have become a judge. ¹² God is the only Lawmaker and Judge. He is the only One who can save and destroy. So it is not right for you to judge your neighbor.

Psalms 133:1 It is good and pleasant when God's people live together in peace!

Luke 9:46-48 Jesus' followers began to have an argument about which one of them was the greatest. ⁴⁷ Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he took a little child and stood the child beside him. ⁴⁸ Then Jesus said, "Whoever accepts this little child in my name accepts me. And whoever accepts me accepts the One who sent me, because whoever is least among you all is really the greatest."

Class Wars, Employment Wars, Church Fights, Personal Wars

At War With Ourselves

James 4:1b-3 They come from the selfish desires that war within you. ² You want things, but you do not have them. So you are ready to kill and are jealous of other people, but you still cannot get what you want. So you argue and fight. You do not get what you want, because you do not ask God. ³ Or when you ask, you do not receive because the reason you ask is wrong. You want things so you can use them for your own pleasures.

Isaiah 53:6 We all have wandered away like sheep; each of us has gone his own way. But the Lord has put on him the punishment for all the evil we have done.

At War With God

James 4:4-10 So, you are not loyal to God! You should know that loving the world is the same as hating God. Anyone who wants to be a friend of the world becomes God's enemy. ⁵ Do you think the Scripture means nothing that says, "The Spirit that God made to live in us wants us for himself alone"? ⁶ But God gives us even more grace, as the Scripture says, "God is against the proud, but he gives grace to the humble." ⁷ So give yourselves completely to God. Stand against the devil, and the devil will run from you. ⁸ Come near to God, and God will come near to you. You sinners, clean sin out of your lives. You who are trying to follow God and the world at the same time, make your thinking pure. ⁹ Be sad, cry, and weep! Change your laughter into crying and your joy into sadness. ¹⁰ Humble yourself in the Lord's presence, and he will honor you.

¹ John 3:4 The person who sins breaks God's law. Yes, sin is living against God's law.

The world

James 4:4 So, you are not loyal to God! You should know that loving the world is the same as hating God. Anyone who wants to be a friend of the world becomes God's enemy.

The flesh

James 4:1 Do you know where your fights and arguments come from? They come from the selfish desires that war within you.

James 4:5 Do you think the Scripture means nothing that says, "The Spirit that God made to live in us wants us for himself alone"?

Galatians 5:17 Our sinful selves want what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit wants what is against our sinful selves. The two are against each other, so you cannot do just what you please.

Romans 8:7 When people's thinking is controlled by the sinful self, they are against God, because they refuse to obey God's law and really are not even able to obey God's law.

The devil

James 4:6-7 But God gives us even more grace, as the Scripture says, "God is against the proud, but he gives grace to the humble." ⁷ So give yourselves completely to God. Stand against the devil, and the devil will run from you.

¹ Timothy 3:6 But an elder must not be a new believer, or he might be too proud of himself and be judged guilty just as the devil was.

Submit to God

James 4:7 So give yourselves completely to God. Stand against the devil, and the devil will run from you.

Ephesians 4:27 Do not give the devil a way to defeat you.

Come near to God

James 4:8 Come near to God, and God will come near to you. You sinners, clean sin out of your lives. You who are trying to follow God and the world at the same time, make your thinking pure.

Humble yourselves before God

James 4:9-10 Be sad, cry, and weep! Change your laughter into crying and your joy into sadness. ¹⁰ Humble yourself in the Lord's presence, and he will honor you.

Psalm 51:17 The sacrifice God wants is a broken spirit. God, you will not reject a heart that is broken and sorry for sin.

Isaiah 66:2 My hand made all things. All things are here because I made them," says the Lord. "These are the people I am pleased with: those who are not proud or stubborn and who fear my word

Isaiah 9:6 A child has been born to us; God has given a son to us. He will be responsible for leading the people. His name will be Wonderful Counselor, Powerful God, Father Who Lives Forever, Prince of Peace.

PLAN AHEAD

Ignoring God's Will

James 4:13-14 Some of you say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to some city. We will stay there a year, do business, and make money." ¹⁴ But you do not know what will happen tomorrow! Your life is like a mist. You can see it for a short time, but then it goes away.

James 4:16 But now you are proud and you brag. All of this bragging is wrong.

Life is very complicated

James 4:13 Some of you say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to some city. We will stay there a year, do business, and make money."

Life is very uncertain

James 4:14a But you do not know what will happen tomorrow!

Luke 12:19-20 Then I can say to myself, “I have enough good things stored to last for many years. Rest, eat, drink, and enjoy life!”²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘Foolish man! Tonight your life will be taken from you. So who will get those things you have prepared for yourself?’

Life is very short

James 4:14b Your life is like a mist. You can see it for a short time, but then it goes away.

Job 7:6 My days go by faster than a weaver’s tool, and they come to an end without hope.

Psalms 90:12 Teach us how short our lives really are so that we may be wise.

Humans are very fragile

James 4:16 But now you are proud and you brag. All of this bragging is wrong.

Proverbs 16:33 People throw lots to make a decision, but the answer comes from the Lord.

DISOBEYING GOD’S WILL

James 4:17 Anyone who knows the right thing to do, but does not do it, is sinning.

Luke 12:47-48 The servant who knows what his master wants but is not ready, or who does not do what the master wants, will be beaten with many blows!⁴⁸ But the servant who does not know what his master wants and does things that should be punished will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded. And from the one trusted with much, much more will be expected.

Colossians 1:9 Because of this, since the day we heard about you, we have continued praying for you, asking God that you will know fully what he wants. We pray that you will also have great wisdom and understanding in spiritual things

MONEY TALKS

The Way They Got Rich

Withholding wages

James 5:1-4 You rich people, listen! Cry and be very sad because of the troubles that are coming to you. ² Your riches have rotted, and your clothes have been eaten by moths. ³ Your gold and silver have rusted, and that rust will be a proof that you were wrong. It will eat your bodies like fire. You saved your treasure for the last days. ⁴ The pay you did not give the workers who mowed your fields cries out against you, and the cries of the workers have been heard by the Lord All-Powerful.

Controlling the courts

James 5:6a You have judged guilty and then murdered innocent people

The Way the Rich Used Their Wealth

They stored it up

James 5:3 Your gold and silver have rusted, and that rust will be a proof that you were wrong. It will eat your bodies like fire. You saved your treasure for the last days.

2 Corinthians 12:14 I am now ready to visit you the third time, and I will not be a burden to you. I want nothing from you, except you. Children should not have to save up to give to their parents. Parents should save to give to their children.

They kept others from benefiting from it

James 5:4 The pay you did not give the workers who mowed your fields cries out against you, and the cries of the workers have been heard by the Lord All-Powerful.

1 Corinthians 4:2 Now in this way those who are trusted with something valuable must show they are worthy of that trust.

They lived in luxury

James 5:5 Your life on earth was full of rich living and pleasing yourselves with everything you wanted. You made yourselves fat, like an animal ready to be killed.

Luke 12:15 Then Jesus said to them, "Be careful and guard against all kinds of greed. Life is not measured by how much one owns."

1 Timothy 6:17 Command those who are rich with things of this world not to be proud. Tell them to hope in God, not in their uncertain riches. God richly gives us everything to enjoy.

What Their Riches Will Do

Riches will vanish

James 5:2-3a Your riches have rotted, and your clothes have been eaten by moths. ³ Your gold and silver have rusted

Misused riches eat away character

James 5:3 Your gold and silver have rusted, and that rust will be a proof that you were wrong. It will eat your bodies like fire. You saved your treasure for the last days.

Proverbs 22:1 Being respected is more important than having great riches. To be well thought of is better than silver or gold.

Judgment is certain

James 5:3 Your gold and silver have rusted, and that rust will be a proof that you were wrong. It will eat your bodies like fire. You saved your treasure for the last days.

James 5:5 Your life on earth was full of rich living and pleasing yourselves with everything you wanted. You made yourselves fat, like an animal ready to be killed.

Precious opportunities will be lost

James 5:3 Your gold and silver have rusted, and that rust will be a proof that you were wrong. It will eat your bodies like fire. You saved your treasure for the last days.

Proverbs 19:17 Being kind to the poor is like lending to the Lord; he will reward you for what you have done.

THE POWER OF PATIENCE

John 16:33 “I told you these things so that you can have peace in me. In this world you will have trouble, but be brave! I have defeated the world.”

Acts 14:21-22 Paul and Barnabas told the Good News in Derbe, and many became followers. Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, ²² making the followers of Jesus stronger and helping them stay in the faith. They said, “We must suffer many things to enter God’s kingdom.”

The Farmer

James 5:7-9 Brothers and sisters, be patient until the Lord comes again. A farmer patiently waits for his valuable crop to grow from the earth and for it to receive the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You, too, must be patient. Do not give up hope, because the Lord is coming soon. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not complain against each other or you will be judged guilty. And the Judge is ready to come!

The Prophets

James 5:10 Brothers and sisters, follow the example of the prophets who spoke for the Lord. They suffered many hard things, but they were patient.

Revelation 22:12 Listen! I am coming soon! I will bring my reward with me, and I will repay each one of you for what you have done.

Romans 15:4 Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us. The Scriptures give us patience and encouragement so that we can have hope.

Job

James 5:11-12 We say they are happy because they did not give up. You have heard about Job’s patience, and you know the Lord’s purpose for him in the end. You know the Lord is full of mercy and is kind. ¹² My brothers and sisters, above all, do not use an oath when you make a promise. Don’t use the name of heaven, earth, or anything else to prove what you say. When you mean yes, say only yes, and when you mean no, say only no so you will not be judged guilty.

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 So that I would not become too proud of the wonderful things that were shown to me, a painful physical problem was given to me. This problem was a messenger from Satan, sent to beat me and keep me from being too proud. ⁸ I begged the Lord three times to take this problem away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is enough for you. When you are weak, my power is made perfect in you." So I am very happy to brag about my weaknesses. Then Christ's power can live in me.

Matthew 5:34-37 But I tell you, never swear an oath. Don't swear an oath using the name of heaven, because heaven is God's throne. ³⁵ Don't swear an oath using the name of the earth, because the earth belongs to God. Don't swear an oath using the name of Jerusalem, because that is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Don't even swear by your own head, because you cannot make one hair on your head become white or black. ³⁷ Say only yes if you mean yes, and no if you mean no. If you say more than yes or no, it is from the Evil One.

LET US PRAY

James 5:13 Anyone who is having troubles should pray. Anyone who is happy should sing praises.

Prayer for the sick

James 5:14-16 Anyone who is sick should call the church's elders. They should pray for and pour oil on the person in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer that is said with faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will heal that person. And if the person has sinned, the sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so God can heal you. When a believing person prays, great things happen.

Sick because of sin

James 5:15b-16 And if the person has sinned, the sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so God can heal you. When a believing person prays, great things happen.

Confessing sin

James 5:16a Confess your sins to each other

Healed by the prayer of faith

James 5:15a And the prayer that is said with faith will make the sick person well

¹ John 5:14-15 And this is the boldness we have in God's presence: that if we ask God for anything that agrees with what he wants, he hears us. ¹⁵ If we know he hears us every time we ask him, we know we have what we ask from him.

Prayer For the Nation

James 5:17-18 Elijah was a human being just like us. He prayed that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years! ¹⁸ Then Elijah prayed again, and the rain came down from the sky, and the land produced crops again.

1 Timothy 2:1-3 First, I tell you to pray for all people, asking God for what they need and being thankful to him. ² Pray for rulers and for all who have authority so that we can have quiet and peaceful lives full of worship and respect for God. ³ This is good, and it pleases God our Savior,

Prayer for the Straying

James 5:19-20 My brothers and sisters, if one of you wanders away from the truth, and someone helps that person come back, ²⁰ remember this: Anyone who brings a sinner back from the wrong way will save that sinner's soul from death and will cause many sins to be forgiven.

MATURING IN CHRIST

- Become more patient when you are tested in life
- Resist temptation
- Learn to enjoy obeying the Word of God
- Control your speech
- Become a peacemaker; not a troublemaker
- Become a friend of God; not a friend of the world
- Don't be greedy – selfish with your money
- When trouble comes, pray
- Don't just grow old; grow mature!