**JAMES - LESSON ONE**

**OVERVIEW**

**DAY ONE –**

“It is in adoring worship of God – the waiting on Him and for Him in deep silence of soul that yields itself for God to reveal Himself – that capacity for knowing and trusting Him will be developed. As we take His Word from the Blessed Book and ask Him to speak it to us with His living, loving voice, the power to believe and receive the Word as God’s own Word to us will emerge in us.” Andrew Murray

The sole purpose in studying the Word of God is to encounter the Living Word of God, Jesus our Lord. Keep that utmost in your heart and mind because sometimes we miss Him because we get distracted from Him in study of information and for more knowledge.

So, as you begin this new study in the book of James, ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to adoring worship of the One who loved you, died for you, and gave you life – to worship in spirit and truth and in living out what He has called you to, a walk that is worthy of your calling (Eph. 4:1).

After you have called on your Teacher to guide you into all truth begin now by reading the book of James.

What was your first impression of the book?

What did He show you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

**DAY TWO –**

This first week of study is overview of the book of James. The overview is just getting the big picture of the book. It would be like flying over a piece of property you might be interested in buying so you have the general idea of what that property looks like. Next week we will land the plane and start to walk the property, so to speak, of the book. So that being said remember don’t get bogged down in details, you will have plenty of time to see the details up close as we go.

After you have started by seeking your Teacher, read all the way through the book again.

Who is the human author of the book? 1:1

How does he describe himself? 1:1

Who is James according to the following Scriptures?

* Matt. 13:54-56 –
* Gal. 1:19 –
* Mark 6:1-6 –
* Acts 15:6-14; 21:18 –
* Luke 2:21-24, 39, 41, 42-43a (What kind of home was he raised in?) –
* John 7:1-9 –
* I Cor. 15:1-7 –

What have you learned about James?

To whom is he writing this book? 1:1

How are they described? 1:1

What does the author tell you about them? Use simple statements.

* 1:2,12 –
* 1:13-17 –
* 1:2, 16, 19; 2:1, 5, 14; 3:3, 10, 12; 4:11; 5:7, 9, 12, 19 –
* 2:1-7 –
* 2:18-26 –
* 3:8 –
* 4:1 –
* 5:1-6 –
* 5:9 –
* 5:13, 14 –
* 5:16 –

What has He said to you today? He spoke; were you listening? Spend some time meditating on what you heard Him say in His Word.

**DAY THREE AND FOUR –**

After you begin with prayer, once again read the entire book through. As you read, note the key words for the book by marking them in distinct ways. Each chapter may have their own key words, you will be looking for those used throughout the whole book this time. When you do this you will be able to go back through the book and find them easily. You can divide this up between the two days.

* Faith, include “believe”
* Brethren
* Sin
* Rich
* Law
* Judgment, judge
* Wisdom
* perfect

List below the general subjects covered in the book.

At this point, what do you consider to be the major theme of this book? Why was he writing to them? What is he calling us to do?

What have you heard Him say today? What will you do now?

**DAY FIVE –**

Today read through the book of James again this time mark every reference to:

* God our Father
* Jesus Christ our Lord
* The Holy Spirit

Note below what you learned about:

* God your Father –
* God the Son –
* God the Holy Spirit –

What has He shown you about Himself today?

So far how would you describe this book, i.e. instructional, practical, doctrinal? Why?

**JAMES - LESSON TWO**

**DAY ONE –**

“Good Bible study consists of three elements: observation, interpretation, and application. First you must begin with accurate observation of the text. As you observe, correct interpretation comes; and personal application **flows out of the correct interpretation.** One will never know for certain what the Lord means until you first learn the art of discovering what the Lord says. Once you learn what He says, you will find it far easier to know what He means. Then you will move from carnality to maturity. According to I Cor. 3, carnality is a state in which you must be fed predigested food, milk rather than meat. It is following men and trusting them alone to feed you rather than being able to feed yourself directed by the Teacher. ‘Solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.’ (Heb. 5:14)” *Precept Upon Precept*

Let’s practice. Today we begin observation on chapter one. Again the goal for today is to “fly over” chapter one and get the general lay out then we will walk through it closely. After you have begun with prayer read chapter one. Remember you will need your Teacher to guide you into all truth.

You have already marked the key words for the book, which gave you the subjects that are covered broadly. Today as you read chapter one mark the key words for this chapter.

* Trials
* Tempted
* The Word
* Humble, humility, humiliation (mark these the same)

What subjects are covered?

* Vv. 2-12 –
* Vv. 13-17 –
* Vv. 18-27 –

According to what you observed today, what did you learn about those to whom the book was first written?

* What are their circumstances?
* Who are in their churches?
* What are they being exhorted to do?
* What problems are they dealing with?

What has the Lord specifically said to you today? What has He shown you about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

**DAY TWO –**

Today as you read through chapter one look for the following:

* Contrasting words or phrases –
* V. 5 – we lack wisdom/God gives wisdom
* V. 6 –
* Vv. 9-10 –
* Vv. 13-14 –
* Vv. 15b/18 – what does sin bring forth? / What does the Word of truth bring forth?
* V. 19 – difference between what they know/what they practice
* V. 21 –
* Vv. 22-25 –
* V. 25 –
* Vv. 26b/27 –
* Words or phrases of comparison –
* V. 6 – what is doubting compared to?
* Vv. 10-11 – what is the rich man and the things he glories in compared to?
* V. 18 –
* Vv. 23-25 – what is being compared?

What did He show you today from the observations of His Word?

**DAY THREE -**

Today read through chapter one. On day one you marked the key words for this chapter, today list what you learned from observing them. Do not forget to begin by seeking your Teacher and His help.

* List below what you learn about trials (state it simply asking the who, what, when, where, why, and how questions as you go - i.e. – how are trials characterized? they are varied, V. 2):
* List below what you learn about the rich and poor:
* List below what you learn about being “tempted”:
* List below what you learn about the “word of truth”:
* List below what you learn about “pure and undefiled religion”:

What has He said to you today? Don’t skip this part, you need to be listening and expecting Him to speak to you through His written Word. Write it down and record what you will do in response to His Word to you.

**DAY FOUR –**

Today after you have sought Him in prayer, yes, read chapter one once again.

Using the 5 W’s and H questions and answer the following questions. Keep your answers simple and in the form of a list.

* What did you learn about His perfect gifts? V. 17
* What did you learn about the perfect law of liberty? V. 25
* What did you learn about sin? Vv. 13-17
* What did you learn about wisdom? V. 5
* what did you learn about humility? Vv. 9 and 21

What has He said to you today? What will you do next?

**DAY FIVE –**

After you have begun with prayer read chapter one all the way through once more.

Who is the human author of this book?

How does he identify himself?

To whom is the book written?

Where are they?

What had been Jesus’ commandment to them according to Acts 1:4-8?

What does obedience to this command result in according to the following:

* Acts 1:12-13 –
* Acts 3:19-4:3 –
* Acts 4:17-18 –
* Acts 6:8-7:2, 54-60 –
* Acts 8:1-4 –

What did Paul say concerning persecution and the gospel in Phil. 1:7, 12, 13?

How did these people that James wrote to become scattered or dispersed abroad according to all you have just observed?

How did Jesus say the world would respond to our witness? John 15:18-23; I John 3:13; 4:1-6

Should we be surprised by peoples’ responses to the gospel message? Why?

According to James 1, what are these people experiencing? Vv. 2, 12

Where might some of the trials be coming from according to verses 9-12?

They are also having a problem with the difference between what they know to be true and what they are actually practicing. How does he address this problem? (Vv. 18-27) Is this a problem today? Why did you answer in this way?

We have much to learn from this book. What has the Lord said to you today? What will you do next?

**JAMES - LESSON THREE**

**DAY ONE –**

Make no mistake the book of James is a book on faith not on works. Real faith results in the fruit of Christ-honoring works. We need to keep this uppermost in our minds. What we say we know should align with what we actually practice. If it doesn’t, we either do not have genuine faith, or we don’t actually genuine saving faith in the One we profess as our Lord. What will a possessor of genuine saving faith do according to chapter one?

* Vv. 2-8, 12 –
* Vv. 9-11-
* Vv. 13-18–
* Vv. 21-22a –
* V. 27 -

Today we will concentrate on verses 2-11. After beginning in prayer; seek Him, to know Him, His ways, and His purposes; read 1:2-11 slowly and prayerfully. Remember all study of the written Word should lead you to the Living Word!

What is the first instruction given in chapter 1? V. 2

(“count” is in the aorist tense meaning, we are to do it now and once for all time)

How are you to consider your trials? V. 2

(“all” meaning unmixed, or wholly with, not just some joy along with grief but unmixed joy)

Who is to do this? V. 2

What kind of trials will you face? V. 2

The Greek word is *poikilos* look this word up and record the meaning.

The Greek word for “trial” is *peirosmos,* look this word up and record the meaning.

What should you know, by experience, concerning all trials according to verse 3?

The Greek word for “testing” is *dokimion* look up this word and record the meaning?

What does the testing prove?

(Once tested, your faith like gold should stand the test of fire and meet the standard, being approved as meeting the standard.)

What does the testing of your faith produce?

The Greek word for endurance is *hupomone,* look this word up and record the meaning.

Once again, what does the testing of your faith produce?

What is the next instruction you are given in regards to trials? V. 4

What is the purpose of doing this? V. 4b

At the end of the trial what will be the result?

- *teleios -*

- *holokleros* -

-*leipo*

(perfected at the end of the task)

According to verse 5 what do we lack in the midst of the trial?

What are you instructed to do because you lack this? V. 5

When you are “surrounded” by a trial, what are you to do, what is your responsibility when you are in the midst of a trial?

* V. 2 –
* V. 3 –
* V. 4 –
* V. 5-

What will happen if you do not handle a trial according to God’s instructions? V. 12

What is a trial meant to produce in your life?

What does God give in the midst of your trials? V. 5

To whom does He give wisdom? V. 5 (ask – is a present active imperative, meaning we are to keep on asking)

How does He give this? V. 5

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What is the qualifier for receiving His wisdom? V. 6

How is the one who doubts described? Vv. 6, 8

What should the one who doubts expect? V. 7

(doubts – *diakrino –* present tense – meaning it is not a single instance but rather a continuous action; the word means doubt, dispute, criticize, to judge, to divide, to be at variance with one’ self)

What is promised to the one who perseveres under the trial? V. 12

Read the following passages and record what you learn from each as it relates to 1:5.

* Romans 11:33-36 -
* Daniel 2:20-23 –
* Job 12:13, 16 –
* Isaiah 9:6 –

Record below what He has shown you today.

**DAY TWO –**

Today after beginning with prayer read 1:2-11 once again. We will continue looking at cross-references.

In light of what we have observed in James 1 concerning trials look up the following passages; read and record what insights the Lord gives you into the subject of trials. Remember to ask the 5 W’s and H questions as you read and meditate on these verses.

* Romans 5:3-5 –
* I Peter 1:6-9 –
* I Peter 4:12-13 –

How are you to regard trials/testings?

Why are you to regard them in this way?

How are you to endure them?

What kinds of trials are there?

What do they produce?

Where does our hope lie?

To whom do we look in the midst of trials? Why?

What has the Lord taught you so far concerning trials? How will these truths help you the next time you find yourself in the midst of a trial?

**DAY THREE –**

Begin your time in prayer seeking Him. Read 1:2-11.

Record below, state simply, the truths found in these verses.

Read II Cor. 12:1-10 and answer the following questions.

* What was Paul experiencing?
* Why?
* What did he seek and ask of the Lord?
* What was His answer?
* What did God provide for him?
* What was Paul’s response to God’s answer?

For every trial what does God provide, according to Hebrews 4:16 and II Cor. 12:9?

According to I Peter 1:6-7, when you have endured the trial what have you past? What does it prove? What does that result in?

How have you viewed trials in the past? What has God showed you in His Word to change or expand that view?

When your next trial comes what do you need to remember?

**DAY FOUR –**

Read again verses 2-11. Don’t forget to begin your time seeking the face of your Teacher first.

What relationship is there between 2-8 and 9-11? “But” in verse 9 returns you to verse 2.

Why would this be such a trial according to verse 1? Remember why they have been dispersed abroad.

According to verses 9-11 what were the circumstances for the dispersed?

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According to Acts 2:44-45 and 4:32-37, what were the circumstances of those who had turned to Jesus?

What is the instruction given to the brother of humble circumstances? V. 9

What is the instruction given to the one who was rich? V. 10

What is the caution given to the one who is rich? Vv. 10b-11

“The cross of Christ lifts up the poor and brings down the high. It is the great leveler of men.”

According to I Peter 1:24, which is quoted from Is. 40:6, what is man compared to?

What happens to all grass?

What are the things man glories in compared to?

What is true of all flowers?

What is this verse reminding us of?

Now how does that relate to our verses in James?

What does I Cor. 2:3 add?

What insight does I Cor. 1:26-31 add to the instruction to the poor man?

What is our high position?

Read Matt. 6:19-34.

Where are you to be laying up treasures?

Why? Vv. 19-21

Where is your heart according to verse 21?

Does what you treasure bring light into your life or darkness? (vv. 22-23) Why did you give that answer?

What does a master demand of his servant? V. 24

Why are you not able to serve God and things/anything other than God? V. 24

Since it is not possible to serve God and things at the same time what are you instructed to do? V. 25

Why are you not to worry about your needs according to the whole of this passage?

* V. 25 –
* V. 26 –
* V. 27 –
* V. 28-30 –
* V. 32 –
* V. 33 –
* V. 34 –

What has the Lord said to you today? What will you do next?

**DAY FIVE –**

Today we will focus on verse 12. So begin with prayer and reading verse 12 in context.

What is the context?

Let’s look up a few of the words in this verse in the Greek.

* Blessed – *makarios* –
* Perseveres – *hupomeno* –
* Approved – *dokimos –*
* Crown of life – *stephanos zoe* –

Who is the blessed man?

What will be the outcome of the perseverance?

How can you be confident you will receive this?

What makes a person endure trials of various sorts? V. 12b

What do the following verses add to 1:12?

* Matt. 5:10-12 –
* Luke 6:20-25 –

From verse 12, what did you learn about the crown?

Read I Cor. 9:24-27 and record what you learn about receiving the crown/prize.

To end today’s, study read the following verses in the Revelation and record what you learn about the crown.

* Rev. 2:10 –
* Rev. 3:11 –
* Rev. 4:10-11 –

How are you doing? Are you running the race so as to win the prize? Are you persevering in the trials? What has He been saying to you today?

**JAMES LESSON 4**

**DAY ONE –**

Today after you have begun with prayer read 1:1-18.

Today we will review verses 1-12 so we can see the flow of the chapter as we begin to look more closely at verses 13-18.

What are you instructed to do in relation to trials?

* V. 2
* V. 3
* V.4
* V. 5

When you ask for this wisdom what does God do according to verse 5?

How are you to ask for the wisdom you lack in the midst of a trial? V. 6

Why are you to ask in this way?

What kind of trial were some experiencing according to verses 9-11?

Do you remember why there were some without and some with plenty? We looked at several cross-references but verse one will remind you.

What was the person of humble circumstances instructed to do? V. 9

What were those who had plenty instructed to do? V. 10

What is true concerning all the things we have in light of the eternal? Vv. 10b-11

What is the result of persevering, remaining under, the trial according to verse 12?

What does persevering prove according to verse 12?

What is promised to the one who loves Him?

What have you learned the Scripture to mean when it exhorts and instructs us to endure or persevere in trials?

You looked up the Greek word for trial, “*peirasmos”* in verse 2, now look up the Greek word for tempted in verse 13 and record what you find? “*peirazo”*

According to verse 2 where do trials come from, outward pressure or inward pressure? Also remember the meaning of perseverance is “to remain under the trial until it has had its perfect work.”

According to verse 14, where do temptations come from without or within? We will look at this more closely tomorrow.

You began today by seeking your Lord and asking Him to speak to you today, what has He said to you? What will be your response? Be specific.

**DAY TWO –**

Today read 1:13-18. Remember to seek Him before you begin, ask Him to speak “for Your servant” is listening.

Mark in a distinct way the key words “tempted” and “lust”.

Read through one more time and mark any instructions given in these verses and list them below.

List below what you learn from the text about “tempted”.

* V. 13 –
* V. 14 –

List below what you learn from the text about “lust”.

* V. 14 –
* V. 15 –

According to verse 14b where does temptation come from, within or without?

Read verses 13-18 once again and this time mark “God”, if you have not already done so. List below what you learn about Him.

* V. 13 –
* V. 17 –

Look at verse 12 and also record what you learn about God.

Look up the following in the Greek and record what you find them to mean.

* V. 17 – variation – *parallage* –
* V. 17 – shifting shadow – *aposkiasma* –

What has your Lord been saying to you today? What will you do next?

**DAY THREE –**

Today we will look at cross-references on temptation. Begin with prayer asking the Lord to give you light and understanding, so you might know Him, His ways, and His purposes.

Read 1:2-18 again.

Where does temptation come from according to this text?

Who does not tempt us to sin?

We will begin with God in this study of temptation.

How can we know according to verses 13 and 17-18 that God does not tempt us to sin? Think it through and record your answer.

What were they being deceived about? Vv. 13-15 contrasted with Vv. 17-18

How is God described in verse 17?

Search the following Scriptures and record what you learn from each concerning God.

* I John 1:5 –
* John 14:5-11 –
* John 8:12 –
* Ps. 104:1-2 –
* Hebrews 13:8 –
* II Cor. 1:19-20 –
* Hebrews 1:12 –
* I Peter 1:16 –
* Numbers 23:19 –
* Malachi 3:6 –
* Exodus 34:5-7 –
* Titus 1:15 –

Obviously we could go on and on looking at Him but we will look at one more text, read Is. 6:1-5.

What did you learn about God?

What is man’s response to His holiness?

God is not tempted to sin because He is holy, there is no lust in Him to tempt Him to do evil.

According to Matt. 4:1-3, how was Jesus tempted?

Was there lust found in Him, Matt. 4:1-11 and Hebrews 2:17-18 and 4:15-16? Why?

What has He shown you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

**DAY FOUR –**

We will continue our study on temptation today. Begin with prayer seeking your Teacher.

Read 1:13-18 again.

We will begin with the fall of man.

What did God command Adam and Eve according to Gen. 2:16-17?

Read Gen. 3:1-13.

Who came to Eve in the garden?

What did he do?

How?

What happened to the woman after she listened to the tempter? V. 6

Compare that verse with I John 2:16. What comparison did you observe?

How do these two verses relate to our text in James 1:13-16?

What happens when we are carried away and enticed by our own lusts? List the progression. 1:15

”Carried away” – *exelko –* to be lured away, drawn away, taken in tow by one’s desires.

”Enticed” – *deleazo –* catch by use of bait; as with a fisherman using a lure or bait and a hunter using bait in a trap.

The idea here is like that of a fish hidden up under a log for protection and the lure goes by and lures him out of that protected place and then he takes the bait.

What is the end result of being drawn out and lured in by our lust?

Here is the idea behind this illustration; the will yields to lust, then conception takes place, and what is born is death. “The child of lust is sin, the child of sin is death – it is a powerful picture of abortion – the child is dead at birth.”

Read I Cor. 15:20-28, 45. What relationship do you observed to be between sin and death?

Let us look further at the cost of sin. Read the following and record what you observe from the text as to the cost of sin.

* Rom. 6:23 –
* Rom. 3:23 –
* Gen. 3:16-24 –
* Gen. 4:8 –
* Gen. 5:5b, 8b, 11b, 14b, 17b, 20b –
* Lev. 17:11; Heb. 9:22 –
* Col. 3:10-13 –
* Heb. 9:9-14 –
* Heb. 9:24-28 –
* II Cor. 5:21 -
* Is. 53 –

What was the cost of your sin?

What was the cost of your sin in order to reconcile you to God who is now your Father?

What has He said to you today?

**DAY FIVE –**

Today after you have begun with prayer read one more time 1:2-18.

On the chart below list, in a simply stated manner, what this text says concerning trials and temptation.

\_**TRIALS TEMPTATION**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Read Heb. 2:18, how does this verse relate to chapter 1:2-18?

Have you ever suffered temptation when you were going through trials? According to verses 2-12 what might be some temptations one might have when in the midst of a trial?

* V. 2 –
* V. 3 –
* V. 4 –
* V. 5 –
* V. 6 -8 –
* Vv. 9-11 –
* V. 12 –
* V. 13 –
* Vv. 13-14 –
* V. 18 –

According to all you have observed in vv. 2-18:

* What do you need to remember about God when you are in the midst of a trial?
* What are you called to do in the midst of a trial?
* What do you learn from Matt. 26:38-39 Jesus asked His Father to do? What did Jesus choose?
* What will you choose to do in the midst of your trials? Why?

What has been the most significant thing the Lord has taught you concerning trials and temptations?

**JAMES - LESSON FIVE**

**DAY ONE –**

Read chapter one completely through. Don’t forget to begin with prayer.

List below all instructions, using brief statements.

* V. 2 –
* V. 3 –
* V. 4 –
* V. 5 –
* V. 9 –
* V. 10 –
* V. 13 –
* V. 16 –
* V. 19 –
* V. 21 –

What will all of us encounter as believers according to verse 2?

Why are these believers in the midst of trials? V. 1

What is one of the trials they are suffering according to verses 9-11?

What is each on of us instructed not to say, according to verse 13?

What are they being deceived about according to the following verses.

* Vv. 2-4, 12 – (remember these were Jewish believers who had been taught that trials/bad things happening to you meant you were out of favor with God.)
* Vv. 9-11 –
* Vv. 13-15 –
* Vv. 17-18 –
* Vv. 19-25 –
* Vv. 26-27 –

According to verse 18 how were you birthed/brought forth into God’s family?

What do they know according to verse 19?

But what were they not practicing in relation to the Word of God? Vv. 19-20

What are you instructed to know and practice in relation to the Word of God? Be brief in your answers and we will expand upon them tomorrow.

* V. 19 -20 –
* V. 21 –
* V. 21 –
* V. 22 –
* V. 25 –

What has He taught you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

**DAY TWO –**

Read today 1:18-27, as you read mark “word”, “word of truth”, and “religion” if you have not already done so.

List below everything you can observe from the text about “the word” or “word of truth”.

* V. 18 –
* V. 19 –
* V. 21 –
* V. 22 –

* V. 23 –
* V. 25 –

List below everything you observe from the text concerning “religion” or “religious”.

* V. 26 –
* V. 27 –

How does verse 26 relate to verses 19-20? This chapter is all connected, every verses flows into the next. Is there a difference between saying/knowing and doing/practicing? How do verses 19-27 answer that question. Write out an explanation. Think it through, review what you recorded above in the lists.

**DAY THREE –**

Read 1:18-27 again but first begin by seeking your Teacher, asking Him to speak to you.

How were you brought forth or birthed by God into His family? V. 18

Read I Peter 1:22-25 and record how you were born again?

Since you have received the Word implanted (implanted – *emphytos* – receive the Word inborn or permanently established in you; inborn assets, and it functions in an exceptional manner.) and have been saved and are being saved and will ultimate be saved, what are you to do in relation to His Word?

According to verse 22, how does a person delude themselves?

What is being contrasted in verse 22?

In 1:2-5, what are they/you instructed to know?

As a result, what are they/you instructed to do? Vv. 2, 4, 5

In 1:13-22, what are they/you instructed to know? Vv. 13-15, 17-18

As a result, what are they/you instructed to do? Vv. 16,19, 21, 22

In 1:26-27, what are they/you to know?

What are they/you to be doing if our knowledge and actions are to reflect a genuine faith?

What is being contrasted in this chapter according to verse 25?

According to this chapter, what is the difference between a genuine faith and a “faith” like the demons in 2:19?

We practice/do what we actually believe. What do your obedience say about your faith? Spend time asking the Lord this question, asking Him to reveal your heart.

Verse 21 has the idea of getting rid of the filth, weeds and trash, so that the inborn Word can thrive. According to verse 18 it is already in you. What things need to be pulled up and thrown out of your own heart so that the Word of truth might thrive and bear fruit? Are you a doer of the Word or just a hearer? What needs to happen in your life? What has He been saying to you today? What will you do next?

**DAY FOUR –**

Today read 1:21-27.

List each thing that you, as a child of God, are responsible to do from this text. Write them in the first person…I am to…

Look up the following words in the Greek and record what you discover.

* Filthiness – *ruparia –*
* All that remains of wickedness – *perisseia* *kakia –*
* Humility – *prautes –*
* Implanted – *emphutos –*
* Religion – *threskeia –* (this speaks purely of external observance of worship)

What has He been saying to you today from His Word? What will you do next?

**DAY FIVE –**

What is the difference between the religious acts of the Pharisees and the acts that flow from a person who has a genuine faith according to the following verses? This can be confusing because the Pharisees performed many religious acts. As you read compare these with what you have been observing in James.

* Matt. 6:1-18 -
* Matt. 12:33-37 –
* Matt. 15:1-20 –

How would you explain a genuine faith or a pure one, and defiled religion to someone else?

What has He said to you today? What will you do?

What specific truths have you observed from chapter one? List them below.

**JAMES - LESSON SIX**

**DAY ONE –**

This week we begin our observation on chapter 2. This will be the overview of chapter 2 then we will dig deeper. Don’t forget to begin your time in the Word of God seeking His help.

Read chapter two completely through. Remember this is not a book about working for your salvation this is a book that explains what a genuine saving faith looks like.

According to Eph. 2:8-10, how is a person saved; and once saved what are they to do?

According to Titus 3:5-8, 14, how is a person saved; and once saved what are they to do?

Read Matt. 7:15-27. What is Jesus contrasting in these verses?

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What does a good tree produce?

What does a bad tree produce?

What were the “say-ers” doing according to verse 22?

What did Jesus say they were doing? V. 23b

Who enters the kingdom of heaven according to Jesus? V. 21, 23, 24

Now read Mark 4:3-20.

What are the four soils or hearts the Word of God fell on, what happened to the seed/Word, what did that seed/Word result in?

- Vv. 4, 15 – beside the road, they hear, but Satan comes and takes away the seed/Word, no fruit

- Vv. 5, 16-17 -

-Vv. 7, 18-19 -

- Vv. 8, 20 -

List the three things that make the good soil distinct from the others? V. 20

By way of reminder to whom is the book of James written? 1:1; 2:1,5, 14

Are these unsaved people or saved people to whom the book is written?

All that you have observed today should be the spring board from which you will interpret chapter two. We began this chapter by looking at the cross-references; we did this so there would be no confusion on what James is saying.

What has the Lord said to you today? If you were seeking Him He would have spoken, were you listening? If you can’t answer this question seek Him now and go back over what you observed from the Word today.

**DAY TWO –**

Beginning in prayer read chapter 2 completely through and mark the key words in distinct ways.

* Brethren
* Faith, believe, or believed
* Personal favoritism, distinction, show partiality
* Judged, judgment, judges
* Works

Read through the chapter once more and this time mark the instructions that are given and then list them below.

* V. 1 –
* V. 5 –
* V.12 –

What are the two subjects covered in this chapter?

* Vv. 1-13 –
* Vv. 14-26 –

You marked the key words of personal favoritism, distinction, show partiality; list blow what you learn about it.

* V 1 –
* Vv. 2-3 – (the example given)
* V. 3 –
* V. 4 –
* V. 6 – what does showing it do to the poor?
* V. 8 – what does showing it do?
* Vv. 9-11- what is it when we practice it?
* V. 13 – what does it indicate if it is practiced?

One more list for today. List below everything you observed by marking the key word “faith”.

* V. 1 –

* V. 5 –
* V. 14 – (put it in a statement, because the assumed answer is no)
* V. 17 –
* V. 18 –
* V. 19 –
* V. 20 –
* V. 21 – who is given as an example of a faith that saves?
* V. 22 – (as you look at this verse remember to see it through the lens of what you studied on day one)
* V. 23 –
* V. 24 – what does faith result in?
* V. 25 – who is now given as an example of a saving faith?
* V. 26 –

Can a “faith” without works save you? Why or why not? Base your answer on what you have observed so far.

What has the Lord been saying to you today in and through His Word?

**DAYS THREE AND FOUR –**

Today, after you begin with prayer, read chapter one again. As you are reading see if you can find any contrasts in the chapter. Mark them with a back slash (/).

What is being contrasted in verses 1-13? Keep it simple, think big picture. V. 1/V. 8

What is being contrasted in verses 14-26? Again keep your answer simple. Vv. 14b, 22/Vv. 17, 19

List the contrast between the following:

**POOR MAN RICH MAN**

Who was showing personal favoritism? V. 1

How were they showing personal favoritism?

How would you fulfill the royal law in this context?

Let’s dig a little deeper into what exactly the royal law is. Look up the following cross-references and record what you discover concerning this royal law.

* Matt. 5:17-48 – (take special note to the phrase “you have heard it said”) –
* Matt. 7:12 –
* Matt. 22:36-40 –
* Lev. 19:18 –

Read the following verses and record what you discover concerning the “law of liberty”.

* John 8:31-32 –
* Rom. 8:1-4 –
* Rom. 13:8-10 –
* Rom. 15:1-3 –
* I Cor. 8:7-13; 10:31-35 –
* Gal. 6:2 –
* Gal. 5:13-16 –
* I Pet. 2:16 –

How does an attitude of personal favoritism, resulting in showing partiality, break the royal law or the law of liberty?

If you are choosing personal freedom in Christ to the exclusion of the law of liberty, you are sinning. All things may be lawful to you but all things do not profit. Not only does it not profit, it can cause someone to stumble in their faith, and that would be contrary to the law of liberty, the royal law. Are you living to please yourself or are you following in your Lord’s footsteps, “He did not please Himself”?

“Personal liberty becomes the battle cry to those who wish to indulge their own whims and appetites regardless of the effect upon others. Our freedom in Christ was not meant for self-indulgence but for selfless service.”

What has He been showing you these two days? What will you do next?

The perfect law of liberty rests in the finished work of Jesus. “Not by works of righteousness which we have done.”

**DAY FIVE –**

Today read chapter one again.

We will look at cross-reference to see what the rest of Scripture has to say about showing partiality and about wealth.

First is God partial? Is He a respecter of persons? Look up the following verses and record what they say:

* Acts 10:34 –
* Romans 2:11 –
* Eph. 6:9 –
* Col. 3:23-25 –

What do the following verses teach us concerning partiality?

* Lev. 19:15 –
* Deut. 1:17 –
* Deut. 16:18-20 –
* Ps. 82:1-4 –
* Jer. 7:4-7 –
* Ez. 22:29-31 –
* Zech. 7:8-14 –

State what you learned about partiality from what you have observed so far?

How does showing partiality compare with showing honor? Look at the following verses and record what you are to do.

* Romans 13:7 –
* I Pet. 2:17 –

One more thing today. Read the following verses and record what you learn about riches.

* Eccl. 5:19 –
* Ps. 52:1-7 –
* Job 31:24-25, 28 –
* Eccl. 5:10 –
* Deut. 6:10-12 –
* Matt. 6:19-34 –
* I Tim. 6:9-10 –
* I Tim. 6:17-19 –

What are you seeking after, not just first but foremost above all other things? What are you trusting in: your bank account, your job, your retirement plan? Who do you look directly to for your every need? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal your heart. What has He said to you today?

Do you show partiality toward some above others? We often can miss that it is easier to be with those who are like us and not with those who are different; it is a form of partiality. Do you look out among the people when we gather to see, really see, those who are new or not really connected, and then reach out to them? What is He telling you today? What will you do next?

**JAMES - LESSON SEVEN**

**DAY ONE –**

After you begin with prayer read chapter 2.

To whom is He writing? Vv. 1, 5, 12, 14

What were they doing? V. 1

How were they doing this? Vv. 2-7

Is he rebuking them for having money? Why was he rebuking them?

What is the royal law?

How do you fulfill the royal law, according to this passage?

What are the sins lumped in with the sin of showing partiality, according to verses 9-11?

How do you view the sin of showing partiality? In common practice it seems to be viewed as one of those “acceptable” sins unlike murder or adultery. However, how does the Word of God say we should view the sin of showing partiality?

What are we exhorted to do as a result of breaking the royal law? V. 12

Why are we to do this? Vv. 12-13

Read the following Scriptures and record what the text teaches concerning judging others. This will be a broad stroke on the subject.

* Matt. 7:1-5, 15-20 –
* I Cor. 5:1-13 –
* I Cor. 6:1-6 –
* Rom. 14:1-4, 10-13 –
* I John 4:1 –
* I Tim. 5:19-20 –
* I Cor. 4:1-5 –

What is the bottom line? We are to decide between what is right and wrong according to Scripture but we are never to condemn a person or pronounce a sentence on someone because that condemnation belongs to another. We do not know what is in the hearts of men unless they reveal it to us.

One more Scripture to read, Matt. 12:33-37. What should we know according to these verses?

What has He said to you today? What will you do next?

**DAY TWO –**

Today read James 2:14-26. For perspective, also, read Eph. 2:8-10 and Titus 3:5-8, 14 if you need to be reminded.

How is one saved?

What does saving faith produce?

Answer the question that the writer puts forth in verse 14 using the text to answer the question.

“What use is it, brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save you?”

**DAY THREE –**

Read again James 2:14-26. Don’t forget to seek your Teacher before you start.

Who does he give as an example of a faith that does not work, a faith that is useless, a faith that is dead? V. 19

What does the verse say they are doing?

Both the words “believe” and “shudder” are in the present active tense, meaning that they are always believing and always shuddering, they are never not doing these. The Greek word for shudder is *phrisso* it means to bristle up, for your hair to stand on end in terror.

Read the following verses and record what you learn concerning their terror and “faith”.

* Matt. 8:28-34; Mark 5:2-7; Luke 8:28 –
* Mark 1:23-25; Luke 4:34 –

Do the demons have saving faith? Why or why not? Answer from James 2:19-20, 26.

What kind of faith do demons have? Vv. 20, 26

Who is given as examples of saving faith?

* V. 21 –
* V. 25 –

Let’s look at Abraham first. Look up the following verses and record what you learn about faith.

* Gen. 12:4 (Vv. 1-8) – note also how old he was when this occurred –
* Gen. 15:1-18 –
* Gen. 17:1-14 – (note God would do it all, He asked Abraham to walk with Him by faith)
* Gen. 22:1-18 – (tradition says Isaac was between a youth and possibly as old as 37, it really doesn’t matter. When does Abraham’s “works” come, in order for him to be credited with righteousness before or after this event?)

What did Abraham’s faith do according to Heb. 11:17-19?

What kind of faith did Abraham have according to James 2:14b, 20b, 22, 26?

Now let’s look at Rahab. Read the following verses and record what you learn about Rahab and her faith.

* Josh. 2:1-24 –
* Josh. 6:22-25 –
* Matt. 1:5 –
* Hebrews 11:31 –

What kind of faith did Rahab have according to James 2:14b, 20b, 22, 26?

What kind of faith do you have? Why do you give that answer?

**DAY FOUR –**

Read 2:14-26. Pray and ask the Lord to give you understanding and insight into His Word of truth.

We will look at the word ‘justified’ today. Look the Greek word up and record the definition below.

*Dikaioo* (Vv.21, 24, 25) *–*

Read Romans 4 and note when Abraham’s faith was put to his account as righteousness, before the outward “work” of circumcision or after?

What did Abraham’s obedience/work follow? Why was he circumcised? 4:9-11

Once Abraham yielded/presented himself to God to obey Him what was the result according to Romans 6:12-23?

* V. 13 –
* V. 16 –
* V. 17 -
* V. 18 –
* V. 19b –
* V. 22 –
* V. 23b –

What was the result of Abraham’s saving faith or living faith?

Explain why this text in James is not teaching that a person is saved by works of righteousness. Use James’ arguments.

**DAY FIVE –**

Living faith is what we must have, unlike the demons, and this living faith shows itself in good works!

If one has living faith or saving faith, what will that person do when faced with trials? 1:2-5

If one has living faith or saving faith, what will that person do if they are either rich or poor? 1:9-11

If one has living faith or saving faith, what will that person know and understand when faced with temptations? 1:12-18

If one has living faith or saving faith, what will that person do in relationship to the Word of God? 1:19-25

If one has living faith or saving faith, what will that person do if their religion is genuine? 1:26-27

If one has living faith or saving faith, what will that person not do according to 2:1-13? What will they do instead?

If one has living faith or saving faith, what will that person do as a result? 2:14-26

What has the Lord taught you about living faith or saving faith?

**JAMES - LESSON EIGHT**

**DAY ONE –**

This week we begin chapter 3 observation. So as is your habit now beginning your time in His Word seeking Him, to know Him, to listen with the intent of obeying, and yes to love Him supremely.

Read chapter 3, as you read mark the key words for this chapter.

* Tongue, say, month
* Wisdom
* Brethren

Go back to the word “tongue” that you marked and record what you learn about it from the text.

* V. 2 –
* V. 5 –
* V. 6 –
* V. 8 –
* V. 9 – (“it”)
* V. 10 –

You also marked the word “wisdom”, record what you learn from it.

* V. 13 –

* V. 15 –
* Vv. 14, 16 –
* V. 17 –

There are two kinds of wisdom being contrasted here, what are they?

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What has He said to you today, what will you do now?

**DAY TWO –**

Begin your time in prayer.

Beginning in chapter one record each instruction. With each instruction there was given an explanation of the instruction that immediately followed. In brief statements record the explanation also. I will give you a couple of examples to get you started. Don’t stress; pray that in this exercise you will see more clearly how the book is laid out and what He has for you to learn.

* 1:2-4,12 – Instruction: consider it joy when you encounter trials, knowing that trials test your faith and produce endurance, so let them have their perfect work, don’t run away.
* Explanation: do this so that you are made complete and whole so you lack nothing; there is the crown which is life laid up for you when you persevere.
* 1:5-8 – Instruction: ask God for wisdom.

-Explanation – we all lack wisdom but God freely gives it when asked in faith without doubting

* 1:13-15 - Instruction: don’t ever say God tempts us to sin.

-Explanation: we are tempted by our own lusts

* 1:16-18 – Instruction: do not be deceived

-Explanation: God only gives good and perfect gifts, He is the Father of lights

* 1:19-20 – Instruction: be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger in your response to the Word of God

-Explanation: man’s anger doesn’t accomplish His righteousness

* 1:21-27 – Instruction: put aside all filthiness and wickedness and receive the Word implanted; this proves you to be a doer of the Word and not a forgetful hearer

-Explanation: the one who does this will be blessed and so prove to have a genuine religion

Now your turn; make your statements brief:

* 2:1-11 – Instruction: V. 1 –

-Explanation: Vv. 2-4 –

* 2:1-11 – Instruction: V. 5 –

-Explanation: Vv. 5-13 –

* 2:12-26 – Instruction: (catch speak and act?)

-Explanation: Vv. 13-26 –

* 3:1-12 – Instruction: V. 1a –

-Explanation: Vv. 1b-12 –

* 3:13-18 – Instruction: V. 13 –

-Explanation: Vv.13-18 –

* 3:13-18 – Instruction: V. 14 –

-Explanation: Vv. 15-16 -

What has He said to you today? One thing we know about our great God, He does speak.

**DAY THREE –**

Read chapter 3 all the way through.

Who is he writing to according to verses 1,10, 12, 13a?

What do we “brethren” obviously have a problem with according to verses 1-12?

What do we “brethren” have a problem with according to verse 13?

You may say, “I’m not a teacher.” Let’s look at some Scripture to answer that statement. Read the following and record what you discover about being a teacher.

* Rom. 12:6-7 –
* I Cor. 12:27-29 –
* Eph. 4:11-16 –

What do these people have in common?

You may say you don’t have the gift of teaching, hold on. Look up the following and record what you find out concerning that. Don’t forget to answer the “who” and “what” questions.

* Matt. 28:19-20 –
* Acts 1:8, 14-15; 2:1-4 –
* Heb. 5:12 –
* II Tim. 2:24 –
* Gal. 6:1-2 –
* Jam. 5:19-20 –
* I Pet. 4:11 –
* Titus 2:3-5 –

According to those verses who is a teacher?

What are we doing and sharing?

According to James 3:1, what is the warning?

Tomorrow we will look more closely at the warning in the rest of the Scripture. But for today what has the Lord said to you? What will you do next?

**DAY FOUR –**

Read 3:1-12. Don’t forget to begin with seeking Him.

According to verse 2 who stumbles in what they say?

Now read I Cor. 3:1-17 and answer the following questions.

* To whom is Paul speaking? V. 1a
* What problem are they having? Vv. 1b-4
* How does Paul identify himself and Apollos, the men who taught them the Word? Vv. 5, 8a
* What will each person who shares the Word receive according to verses 8?
* What was Paul’s specific assignment according to verse 10?
* How did he carry out his assignment? V. 10
* Who is the foundation that was laid in the believer’s life? V. 11
* What is the warning given as to what is to be used to build on Him? V. 11
* How many and what kinds of materials are used to build with here? V. 12
* How will the quality of the materials used to be revealed? V. 13
* When will the quality be revealed? V. 13
* What will be the result of the revealing/fire? Vv. 14, 15

Read I Cor. 4:1-5 and answer the following questions.

* How does Paul identify himself and any who will be teaching the Word? V. 1
* What is the Lord looking for in a steward of His Word? V. 2
* Who is going to do the examining and judging of His stewards? V. 5
* When will this take place? V. 5

Yet He gave us the responsibility to do the following:

* I Tim. 1:3-7 –
* Jude 3-4 –
* I John 4:1 –
* II Tim. 2:15 –
* II Tim. 3:1-9 –

According to James 3:1-2, what are you to know and act upon?

According to I Cor. 3 and 4, what are you to know and act upon?

For those who are retaining the standard of sound doctrine and teaching it faithfully, what do we need to remember about judging them? I Cor. 3 and 4

But for those who are teaching contrary to sound doctrine what are we to do according to the verses in I Tim. 1, Jude, I John, II Tim.2 and 3?

What will be judged, and why will they be judged according to all you observed today?

How should you respond to this truth?

What has He said to you today? What will you do next? He has called you to speak, are you prepared as a good steward of the grace of God? What are you building with into the lives of those of whom the Lord has entrusted to you to share the Word with; your neighbors’ lives, your children’s lives, or grandchildren’s lives? Yes, those who have children are instructed to teach them and bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, but He has also placed each of us into His body and He has given us each a gift to be used to minister in that body; you cannot neglect either; you will be held accountable for both.

**DAY FIVE –**

Read 3:1-12.

What are we to know about those who will teach the Word of God? V. 1

According to what you observed yesterday, when will that judgement take place?

What do all of us stumble in? (Stumble here is in the present tense meaning we keep on stumbling.)

What is a person called who doesn’t stumble in what they say according to verse 2?

The Greek word for perfect is *teleios.* It means one who is mature, full grown, fully developed, mature or genuine. It is the same word used in 1:4. It does not mean perfection but maturity and completeness.

What is verse 2 telling us about the person who doesn’t keep on stumbling in what he says?

Read Gal. 5:19-26.

Can one hide the deeds of the flesh according to verse 19a? why or why not?

What are the impulses and evidences of the deeds of the flesh? Vv. 19-21

What should the one who continually, as the habit of their lives, and who practices these things not inherit?

Why, according to verse 24?

But what is produced in the one who belongs to Jesus? Vv. 22-23

Since those who belong to Jesus live by the Spirit, what should they also do according to verses 25 and 26?

So according to Gal. 5 who can control the tongue? The one who is controlled by the flesh or the one who is controlled by the Spirit?

If He is in control of the tongue, what else is He in control of, according to James 3:1-12?

What is the evidence that He is not in control of the tongue, according to verses 10-12?

What are these verses connecting together in our lives? Vv. 1-12 and 13, same as in the previous chapters

– the one who has saving faith will…

What did Jesus say about this in the following verses?

* Matt. 12:33-37 –
* Matt. 15:18-19 –

What kind of teacher is being called for in verse 13?

What reveals wisdom and understanding in a person? V. 13

What has the Lord been showing you today?

**JAMES - LESSON NINE**

**DAY ONE –**

One last day on chapter three, so read the whole chapter one more time.

List the contrast below between wisdom from above and wisdom that is not from above.

**WISDOM FROM ABOVE**  **WISDOM THAT IS NOT FROM ABOVE**

(God’s wisdom) (counterfeit wisdom)

According to verse 13 one’s conduct should be in line with what we say, if it is not what kind of wisdom is that?

Let’s look up some of these words in the Greek to get a better understand of what is being said. If you do not have time to do this part read, these verses in the Amplified Bible and record your insights.

* Vv. 13,15, 17 – wisdom – *sophia –*
* V. 13 – understanding – *epistemon* –
* V. 13 - Gentleness – *prautes* – (in direct contrast to arrogant in verse 14)
* V. 14 – bitter jealousy – *pikros zelos* – fierce desire to promote one’s own opinion to the exclusion of others.
* V. 14 – selfish ambition – *eritheia* – a pushing forward for personal ends; really means the vice of a leader of a party created for his own pride; party ambition, party rivalry.
* V. 16 – disorder – *akatastasia* – anarchy, a state of disorder; false wisdom troubled the group of believers by demanding their own rights and exercising a party spirit.
* V. 17 – pure – *hagnos –* same root word as holy; means pure from fault; not peace at any cost – wisdom from above is first and foremost pure then…
* V. 17 - gentle – *epieikes* – reasonable; signifies a humble patience or steadfastness which is able to submit to injustice, disgrace, and maltreatment without hatred and malice, trusting God inspite of it all.
* V. 17 – reasonable – *eupeithes* - approachable, willing to yield, one who submits to a fatherly will.

What identifies a person who is wise and understanding? V. 13

When there is selfish ambition, party spirit, and a demanding of personal rights what does that identify?

They were instructed to stop doing that. By practicing those things what were they doing according to verse 14b?

What kind of wisdom was that identified as? V. 15

What does this kind of wisdom result in according to verse 16b?

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What characterizes wisdom from above according to verses 17-18?

1. What is it first and foremost?

What have you learned about wisdom from above that you can practically apply to your own life?

Since the problem and source of our words and actions lay in the heart, what is our hope according to the following verses? What has He done for those who belong to Jesus; those who have a saving faith?

* Ezekiel 36:26-27 –
* Jeremiah 31:33 –
* Jeremiah 32:39-40 –
* John 7:37-39 –

What does James 3 have to say about the faith that works or the evidence of a saving faith?

-Vv. 1-12 -

-Vv. 13-18 –

Do you have a saving faith? Why do you say that? How can anyone say that?

Saving faith produces a godly life-style while dead faith is just a say so faith. What backs up a saving faith?

**DAY TWO –**

Today we will start observation on chapter 4. Begin with prayer and then read chapter 4. As you read mark the key words.

* Brethren
* Humble
* Law
* Judge
* Speak

What is happening in this chapter? What are the brethren doing or not doing?

* Vv. 1-6 –
* Vv. 7-10 –
* Vv. 11-12 –
* Vv. 13-17 –

What is the first question that is asked in verse 1?

What is the source of quarrels and conflicts?

* 3:13-18 –
* 4:1b -
* 4:3b –

What is the source of these pleasures according to verse 4?

What does the seeking after personal pleasures result in?

* 3:16 -
* 4:1 –
* V. 2 –
* V. 2 –
* V. 3 –
* V. 4b –
* V. 6 –

What has He further shown you today concerning the difference between the wisdom from above and the wisdom that is not from above?

What have you learned concerning conflict in the church and among the brethren?

What is He calling you to do, to live out?

**DAY THREE –**

Today after you begin with prayer read chapter 4 again this time mark all the instructions, then record them below along with their explanations, as you did before. We will go back to 3:18 also.

* 3:18 – Instruction: the one who claims to be wise and understanding is to show it by his good behavior, his deeds done in the gentleness of wisdom

-Vv. 3:19-4:1-6 -Explanation: the difference in the worlds wisdom and wisdom from above is revealed in our behavior, i.e. – selfish ambition/purity in action, party spirit/ peaceable; all resulting in constant conflicts, unanswered prayer…

What was the resulting instructions, due to their life-styles that reflected a wisdom that is earthly, natural demonic, and an adulteress friendship with the world?

* V. 7 –
* V. 8 –
* V. 9 –
* V. 10 –

What is the instruction given in verse 11?

What is the explanation of this instruction? Vv. 11-12

What is the instruction given in verse 15?

What is the explanation of this instruction, be brief in your answer? Vv. 13-17

Read again 4:1-10.

What are the source of conflicts and quarrels among us according to verse one?

What does each one seek after his or her own pleasure/personal happiness results in, according to verse two -

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What do they do when they don’t get what they lust after? V. 2

-so you

-so you

Why do they not have? V. 2

When they do ask why do they not receive what they ask for? V. 3

What does he say this is according to verse 4?

What is friendship with the world? V. 4

What should we be desiring above all else according to verse 5? Why?

What does friendship, a seeking after the things and ways of the world indicate is in our life according to verse 6?

What does God do as a result of our self-seeking, pleasure-seeking, prideful ways? V. 6

What is the greater way or God’s way? V. 6

What is the result of humility? V. 6

Because God gives a greater grace to the humble what are you told to do in order to experience this greater grace?

* V. 7a –
* V. 7b –
* V. 8a –
* V. 8b –
* V. 8c –
* V. 9a. – be miserable, mourn, and weep
* V. 9b –
* V. 10 –

Why? V. 10b

What had they been doing in contrast to what God is instructing them/us to do? Vv. 1-6

According to verses 1-10, what does a person who has a dead faith do?

According to verses 1-10, what does a person who has a saving faith do?

What are you seeking after? What is your goal? Is it to exalt God? To do things God’s way? To seek Him above all else? To be in submission to Him alone? Or is the Spirit showing you that your heart is seeking your own pleasures, ways, exaltation? Do you find yourself more a friend of the world than a friend of God? Spend some time asking Him to show you. Then do as verses 7-10 instruct.

**DAY FOUR –**

Once again read verses 1-10, don’t forget to begin your time in prayer.

According to verse one what does the seeking after one’s own pleasures cause?

The Greek word for quarrels is *polemos.* Look this word up and record what you find.

The Greek word for conflicts is *mache*. Look this word up and record what you find.

*Polemos* means chronic state of or campaign of war while *mache* indicates separate conflicts and battles of a war. Another words they were not just fighting they were in a constant state of war with one another resulting in constant conflicts.

Should this be? If it is so, what does that indicate we are operating out of wisdom from above or earthly, natural, and demonic wisdom? Do you ever feel like you are on a merry-go-round of conflict you can’t get off of? How do you get off according to 3:13-18 and 4:1-10?

Are these brethren actually murdering one another? Read Matt. 5:21-26 and James 2:8-13, then answer that question from the texts.

They are not only hating one another to the point of murder in their hearts but what else are they doing according to verse 4a? Against whom are they doing this?

How are they committing this? V. 4

The Greek word for world is *kosmos.* It means world system, adornment, world order, that which serves to beautify through decoration. (BDAG)

The Greek word for friendship is *philia.* It means to love or have affection for, tenderness for.

The Greek word for hostility is *echthra.*  It means having hostile feelings and actions toward someone, to actively hate, to have ill will, being an enemy of.

Who in verse 4 is making an enemy of whom?

According to the word definitions what is verse 4 saying?

Read the following verses and record what insights you get concerning friendship with the world.

* Eph. 2:1-2 –
* Titus 2:11-14 –
* I John 2:15-17 –
* Romans 12:1-2 –

What is to be your relationship to the world?

Why?

Based on your study today and what the Spirit of God is saying to you, what is your relationship to the world and then to God? What is He calling you to do? Think about why you should desire Him as He desires fellowship with you.

**DAY FIVE –**

Read 4:1-10. Begin with prayer. “For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12

God’s call to us in these verses is to separate ourselves from the love of self, self-gratification, and a love of this world with all its’ allures to turn back to Him in humility and find grace, His fellowship. How does it instruct us to do that in V. 7a?

The word for submit is *humotagete.*  It means to align one’s self up under the authority of another. The word here is aor. passive imperative meaning you are commanded to be becoming subject to God. The tense indicates urgency.

In your becoming subject to God, what else are you instructed to do? (there are 8 active imperatives in the text, meaning you are to be actively doing what is commanded.)

* V. 7b – actively be taking your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* V. 8a – actively be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* V. 8b – actively be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* V. 8c – actively be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* V. 9 – actively be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-actively be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-actively be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-actively be turning your laughter into mourning and joy to gloom

The last imperative is once again passive, as you are becoming \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. V. 10a

Where are you becoming humble? V. 10a

Here is the idea, read the following and record how it relates to becoming humble in His presence.

* Ez. 1:28; 3:23 –
* Is. 6:1-8 –
* Job 38:1-12; 40:1-4; 42:1-6 –

What does this problem of the heart, pride cause according to all you have observed this week?

How is this problem of the heart, pride, to be dealt with according to all you have observed this week and today in particular?

“Then Job answered the LORD and said, ‘Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to You? I lay my hand on my mouth.’” Job 40:3-4

**JAMES - LESSON TEN**

**DAY ONE –**

Read James 4. According to this chapter what does a living faith look like?

Now we are going to look at Jesus and His instructions and His “example for us to follow in His steps”. Jesus reminds us in John 15:20, “Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his Master.’” Read the following passages and record what you learn concerning His instructions to His disciples/you or what His example to follow is.

* Phil. 2:5-11 –
* Matt. 23:1-12 –
* John 13:12-17 –
* Rom. 15:1-3 –
* Matt. 10:34-39 –
* Matt. 11:28-30 –

What is God’s way as lived out by the Lord Jesus?

What is He saying to you today? Write it out.

What will you do in response to what He has said to you?

**DAY TWO –**

After you have begun with prayer read chapter four one last time. Be purposeful in your reading. Ask the Holy Spirit speak to you specifically.

What is the instruction given in verse 11?

What is His explanation of this instruction? Vv. 11-12

Let’s look at judging today, the kind He is speaking of. Look up and read Romans 14:1-23. As you read take note of and record your insights on:

* the one who is weak in faith – who judges -

* the one who has faith – and yet who holds with contempt.

-is instructed to? V. 1 –

-has faith to do what? V. 2a –

-he is not to do what? V. 3a –

-

What is both the one who eats and the one who does not eat do? Vv. 5-9

What will each have to do according to verses 10-12?

Who is the judge according to verse 4?

What will He do for His servant?

What are both instructed to do in verse 13?

What is Paul convinced of according to verse 14a?

What is true though of the one who thinks something is unclean/sin? V. 14b

What should never happen according to verse 15a?

If we do, what are we not doing? V. 15

What are we instructed to do then as a result of love? V. 15b

What are we then instructed to do concerning anything we do that may be an offense to a brother or sister in Christ? V. 16

Why? Vv. 17-18

What are we to be in pursuit of according to verse 19?

What are you not to do according to verse 20?

All things may be clean, but when are they considered evil? V. 20b

As a result, what are you to do about the questionable things according to verse 21-23?

Where do you find your personal rights in this chapter and 15:1-3?

What are you to do then? 15:1-3

How are you to view and treat your brother or sister in Christ?

What has He said to you today? What will you do next?

**DAY THREE –**

Begin in prayer and we will continue with 4:11-12 and the subject of judging.

What is the relationship between verses 1-6 and verses 11 and 12? Read them and then record the parallel?

What is the contrast then between 1-6, 11-12 and 6-10? (Hint: pride and humility)

What does it indicate about us when we presume to pronounce a sentence/judgment on a brother or sister in Christ?

James references judging and judgment seven times. Look them up and record what each verse says regarding judgment.

* James 2:4 –
* James 2:6 –
* James 2:12 –
* James 2:13 –
* James 4:11 –
* James 4:12 –
* James 5:9 –

Now let’s look at a few more cross-references concerning judging. Look them up and record your insights.

* Hebrews 10:30 –
* I Peter 2:23 –
* I Cor. 4:4-5 –
* John 12:48 –
* I Cor. 5:1-13 –

-who is being judged? Vv. 1-3

-what is the purpose of this judgment? Vv. 5b and 6-8

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-who do we not judge? V. 12

-who are we to judge? V. 12

-but for what purpose? V. 5a – restoration, sanctification of the one who has sinned and Vv. 6-8

the purity of the body

What caution does I Cor. 10:12 and Matt. 7:1-5 give?

What caution does James 4:6 give?

And according to Romans 14:4, what will your Judge do for you and your brother or sister in Christ?

What does correct and Biblical judging consider and do? If you are able cite the Scripture references.

What indicates the judging being done is evil and sin? If you are able cite the Scripture reference.

What has He shown you today?

**DAY FOUR –**

Read 4:13-17 prayerfully.

What is the instruction given in verse 15?

What is the explanation of this instruction? Vv. 13-17

How do these verses relate to verses 1-12? (hint: same source of the problem)

According to the following verses, what is your length of days like?

* James 4:14 –
* James 1:10 –
* Job 7:7 –
* Psalm 102:11 –
* Psalm 103:15-16 –
* I Samuel 20:3 –

According to the following verses, what determines how long your life will be?

* Psalm 22:29 –
* Psalm 31:15 –
* Job 33:4 –
* Job 34:14-15 –
* Job 14:5
* Job 12:9-10 –
* Psalm 139:16 –
* Revelation 1:18 –

Therefore, what is to be your attitude according to the following?

* Proverbs 27:1 –
* Psalms 31:14-15 –
* Psalms 39:4-5 –
* James 4:13-17 –

What has the Lord shown you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

What do you need to do?

**DAY FIVE –**

Read Luke 12:13-21 and Matt. 6:19-34.

What is Jesus warning us against in these passages? Keep your answer simple.

How do these passages relate to James 4:13-17?

What are you living for? What do you spend your time and energy and thoughts on? Who plans your day? Who is setting the agenda and goals for your life? What do you need to do in response to what the Lord has shown you from His Word?

**JAMES LESSON ELEVEN**

**DAY ONE –**

We start chapter five this week. As you read this chapter ask your Teacher (to guide you into all truth, He is Truth.

As you read mark the following key words:

* Rich, and their pronouns – your, you
* Brethren
* Patient, patience
* Pray, prayer, prayed

Read through the chapter again and this time mark all the instructions as you have before. Record them below with their explanations. Remember be brief in your statements.

* V. 1 – Instruction:

-Explanation: Vv. 2-6 –

* V. 7 – Instruction:

-Explanation: v. 7b –

* V. 8 – Instruction:

-Explanation: 8b –

* V. 9 – Instruction:

-Explanation: v. 9b –

* V. 10 – Instruction:

-Explanation: vv. 11 –

* V. 12 – Instruction:

-Explanation: v. 12b –

* V. 13 –
* V. 14 – Instruction:

-Explanation: Vv. 15-18 –

* Vv. 19-20a – Instruction:

-Explanation: Vv. 19b-20

What did you learn concerning the brethren?

* V. 7 –
* V. 9 –
* V. 12 –
* V. 19 –

If you had questions concerning anything in this chapter write them below. You can go back when you finish the chapter and see if you can answer them from the text and the cross-references.

What was the Lord saying to you today? What will you do now in response to what He said?

**DAY TWO –**

After you have begun with prayer read chapter 5 again.

Yesterday you marked the key word “rich” list below what you learned about them from the text.

This section is a warning to the rich, both those who have a saving faith and those who have a dead faith. Obviously there were both in the church. That is why it is written that we might each identify whether we have a faith that saves or a dead useless faith. What does the one who would be rich, and have a saving faith, do and not do, according to verses 1-6?

How do we know that there are both kinds of people in the church, according to Jesus in Matt. 13:24-30?

How did they get there?

What are we instructed to do about them? Why?

What is the warning to the rich in the church? Vv. 1-6

According to verses 2 and 3, what is the current state of their riches? These words are in the perfect tense, meaning they are in a completed state or condition. (Rusted down to the bottom.)

What has the resulting condition become according to verse 3?

What will they do? V. 3

When have they stored up these treasures? V. 3b

What are these treasures they have and hold on to so dearly? Vv. 2, 3

What treasure are should you be storing up according to Matt. 6:19-34?

Where are they stored? (Matt. 6:19-34)

How can we identify what kind of treasures we are laying up?

* V. 21 –

-what do you love? What do you spend your energy, money, and time on?

* V. 24 –

-Who or what are you serving? Who or what are you devoted to?

* Vv. 25,31, 34 –

-Are you stressing over the stuff of this life or are you trusting Him for what you need and abandoning yourself to seek Him and His righteousness and kingdom?

What has He said to you today? What will you do next?

**DAY THREE –**

What is to be our attitude toward money? What is to be our attitude towards the poor? We will do some cross-references today. You may say well I’m certainly not rich, that would be a matter of perspective compared to the rest of the world.

According to the following verses, what is your attitude to be towards the poor? Ask the who, what, where, when, why, and how questions of the verses. Who is poor? Who is to provide? How are they to be provided for? Etc.

* Deut. 15:7-11 – (don’t miss - the same phrase used in James is in verse 9b of this text) –
* Deut. 24:19-22 –
* Prov. 14:31; 17:5 –
* Prov. 22:22-23 –
* Lev. 19:15 –
* Is. 58:6-11 –
* Ps. 41:1-3 –
* Acts 4:32-35 –
* Rom. 12:10-13 –
* Gal. 6:10 –

What is your attitude toward money to be?

* II Cor. 8:1-9 –
* II Cor. 9:5-15 –
* Eph. 4:28 –
* I Tim. 6:6-10, 17-19 –

What is to be your attitude toward the poor brother in need?

What is to be your attitude toward the alien poor?

What is to be your attitude toward money?

What has He said to you today? What will you do?

**DAY FOUR –**

Today read 5:1-11.

What are those who are the brethren, those who have a saving faith, instructed to do in verse 7-11, as a result of the rich who have mistreated them?

How long are they to be patient?

Who are given examples of patiently waiting and being strengthened in the Lord?

* Vv. 7-9 – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-How does he wait?

-What is he waiting on?

-What are we waiting on?

-While waiting, what are we to stop doing? V. 9

-Why?

* V. 10 – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-What did they do?

-By whose authority?

-What happened to the prophets when they spoke to the people in the LORD’s name/authority according to the parable in Mark 12:1-12?

- one example – see Jerimiah 26:1-8, 11 – what did they want to do to him? What did he continue to do?

* V. 11b – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-How did the Lord deal with Job?

-How did the Lord deal with Job according to Job 42:1-17?

What exactly is the Lord telling us to do when we are mistreated by those who may have a saving faith and those who may have a dead faith?

What is our hope according to this passage? Vv. 7, 8, 9b

Maybe it is you who has mistreated someone or who is trusting in what they have, whether it is money, health, ability, etc. What are you to do according to this text and all we have observed so far in 5:1-11?

What has He said to you today? What will you do next?

**DAY FIVE –**

Today we will look at cross-references on the Second Coming of Jesus as referenced in verses 3, 7, 8, 9. What did you learn from our text in James?

* V. 3 –
* V. 7 –
* V. 8 –
* V. 9 –

Begin your time asking Him to guide you into all truth to speak to you and transform you by the renewing of your mind.

What are the last days that verse 3 refers to? What happens in the last days? When are the last days? Look up the following Scriptures and record what you discover regarding the last days.

* Hebrews 1:2 –
* Acts 2:17 –
* II Peter 3:3-4, 8-12 –
* Jude 18 –
* I John 2:18-19 -

What will be happening before His coming according to the following Scriptures? And what are you to be doing in these last days?

* Luke 21:5-28 –

-What will be happening before His coming?

-What are you to be doing in these last days?

* II Tim. 3:1-17 –

-What will be happening before His coming?

-What are you to be doing in these last days?

* II Peter 3:8-13 –

-What will be happening before His coming?

-What are you to be doing in these last days?

This was a very brief look at the last days and His coming. What has the Lord said to you today in light of what you have studied today?

**JAMES TWELVE**

**DAY ONE –**

Today after you have begun with prayer read 5:12-19.

What are you instructed to stop doing according to verse 12?

Why? V. 12

Read Matt. 5:33-37 and record below what Jesus said concerning this?

What do the following Scriptures have to say about making vows or oaths?

* Lev. 19:12 -
* Numbers 30:2 –
* Deut. 23:21-23 –

What is it practically 5:12 is telling you about your yes and no; your word?

How would that relate to what you tell someone, boss, kids, spouse, etc., that you will do?

What has the Lord said to you today? What will you do next?

**DAY TWO –**

Today begin with time in prayer. Read James 5:13-18.

You have previously marked the words pray, prayer, or prayed – if you have not do so now.

If you are suffering trouble what are you instructed to do? V. 13

If you are happy what are you instructed to do? V. 13

Who are both of these to be directed to?

What are you instructed to do if are sick (*astheneo –* to be without strength, weak, whether physically, mentally, or spiritually)? V. 14

What are they to do? V. 14

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(Oil in this verse is *elaion* olive oil, it was used for medical purposes, as a medicine.)

How are they to do this? V. 14b

Where is this to take place according to verse 14?

What will restore this person? V. 15a

Who will raise this person up from his/her bed of sickness to health? V. 15

According to verse 15 what things are related?

-a. – prayer/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-b. – restoration/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-c. – sickness/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Then in verse 16 – confession of sin and prayer/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Because the prayer that is marked by faith will restore the sick and the Lord will raise him up from the sick bed and forgive his sins, what are you instructed to do in verse 16, “therefore”?

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Why? (Healed is passive in this verse – it is the Lord who does it to you)

What does this kind of praying accomplish according to verses 13-16?

According to these verses why is this person sick?

Who is given as an example of praying with great power resulting in an effect? V. 17

What do you learn about him in these verses?

* V. 16 –
* V. 17 –
* V. 18 –

What did this ordinary man’s praying accomplish? Vv. 17-18

Look up the following cross-references and record what you learn about this ordinary man who is like you.

* I Kings 17:1-10 –
* I Kings 17:17-24 –
* I Kings 19:1-4 –
* I Kings 19:9-10, 14 –

How could Elijah pray such bold prayers and get answers? Yes, they were prayers offered in faith but why were they effective? Look up the following Scripture references and record what you find to answer these questions.

* I Kings 16:29-33 – what was the condition of Israel?
* Deut. 11:13-17 – what is the Word of the LORD to His people? What is the result of their idol worship to be?
* Deut. 28:15, 23-24 –

So how could he pray so boldly and receive what he prayed for?

In the middle of the drought as a result of the sin of the people, how was Elijah provided for?

How should you be praying according to all you have observed today?

**DAY THREE –**

Don’t forget to begin your time in prayer. We will look today a little more at why Elijah’s prayer was effective.

Read I Kings 18. As you read mark:

* LORD
* The Word of the LORD
* Elijah
* Obadiah
* Ahab
* Baal
* Prophets of Baal

According to verse one who spoke to Elijah?

What did He say to him? V. 1

What did Elijah do in response to God’s Word? V. 2

What does that tell you about Elijah?

What did you learn about Obadiah?

* V. 3 –
* V. 4 –
* Vv. 5-6 –
* Vv. 7-16 –
* V. 12 –
* V. 13 –
* V. 16 –

What did your observation concerning Obadiah teach you about a follower of the LORD?

According to verse 17 what does Ahab accuse Elijah of being? Who is he blaming for Israel’s drought and famine?

What does Elijah tell Ahab is the reason for the trouble? V. 18

What happens to you when you hold the standard of God up, by word and deed?

What does Elijah tell Ahab to do next? V. 19

What is Elijah’s question to the people? V. 21

What is their answer? V. 21b

What will be the test revealing who is the one true God? Vv. 22-29 \*24

Does Baal answer the prayers of the false prophets?

What does Elijah do before he offers a sacrifice unto the LORD God? Vv. 30, 32

What did he rebuild it with? Vv. 31-32

What did he put on that altar? Vv. 33-35

Now look at Elijah’s prayer in verses 36-37.

* How long is this prayer?
* On what basis does he make his request? V. 36

- 36a -

- 36b -

-v. 37 -

* What did the LORD do? V. 38
* What was the response of the people? V. 39
* What was the result of their repentance and faith? V. 40

-v. 40 –

-Vv. 41, 45 -

* How many times does Elijah pray and then send his servant to look for the answer? V.43
* What does the servant see the seventh time? V. 44
* What does Elijah know is going to happen? V. 44

What did you learn about praying in faith, confession of sin, and answered prayer?

What has the LORD said to you today?

What will you do next?

**DAY FOUR –**

After you begin with prayer read 5:13-20.

What are the brethren, you, instructed to do in verse 19?

What are you to know when you do this? V. 20

What did Elijah do according to the Scripture we observed yesterday?

What was the result? And what is the result when we do this? V. 20

What are those in verse 19 doing that is wrong?

What had the children of Israel done?

“turns” in both verses 19 and 20 – *epistrepse* – meaning to turn back, change direction, repent, change one’s ways, or turn around; a full repentance

What are we called to do for each other? Vv. 19-20

Have you ever gone astray from the truth and someone helped you to return? Share briefly.

What has the Lord said to you today?

**DAY FIVE –**

Today we will review what the Lord has taught us in the book of James.

According to chapter one, what does one do who has a genuine or saving faith?

* Vv. 2-4 -
* Vv. 5-6 –
* Vv. 9-10 –
* V.12 –
* Vv. 13-18 –
* Vv. 19-25 –
* Vv. 26-27 –

According to the Word of God in chapter one do you having a genuine saving faith? Why or why not, what is the evidence of it?

According to chapter two, what does one do or not do who has a genuine saving faith?

* Vv. 1-13, \*1, 4, 9a –
* Vv. 14-26 –

According to the Word of God in chapter two do you having a genuine saving faith? Why did you answer in that way?

According to chapter three, what does the one do who has a genuine saving faith?

* Vv. 1-12 –
* Vv. 13-18- 4:1-3 –

According to the Word of God in chapter three do you having a genuine saving faith? Why did you answer this way?

According to chapter four, what does the one do who has a genuine saving faith?

* Vv. 4-6 –
* V. 7 –
* V. 8 –
* V. 9 –
* V. 10 –
* Vv. 11-12 –
* Vv. 13-17 –

According to chapter four do you have a genuine saving faith? Why did you answer in this way?

According to chapter five, what does the one do who has a genuine saving faith?

* Vv. 1-6 –
* Vv. 7-8 –
* V. 9 –
* Vv. 10-11 –
* V. 12 –
* Vv. 13-18 summed up in vv. 19-20 –

According to Ezekiel 36:25-27; 18:33; and II Cor. 5:17, how is it possible that we could live according to James?

Can a person have a saving faith and not have a changed life to back it up? Why did you answer in this way?

What has the Lord taught you through the study of the book of James?