

James 1

I. Introduction

A. The book of James is filled with practical instruction for daily Christian living. Notice some specific instruction from the first chapter of this book. **James 1:1**

II. Count it All Joy...

A. James begins by noting the right response to trials. He particularly stresses the need to consider how trials help us develop patience. **James 1:2-4; 1:12**

III. Faithful Prayer

- A. Enduring through trials requires wisdom, which the inspired writer exhorts us to pray for. **James 1:5; 1 John 5:14**
- B. Such prayer must be done in *faith*. We must trust God's *ability* and *promises* to answer faithful prayer in ways He determines best. **James 1:6**
- C. One who prays *without* faith is "double-minded." **James 1:7-8**

IV. Equality in Christ

- A. James also speaks about the nature of riches and temporal circumstances. One who is lowly from the world's perspective but right with God has great *spiritual* riches, and has as good an opportunity as anyone to do great things for God, with full rights of citizenship in Christ's kingdom. **James 1:9**
- B. On the other side of the coin, one who is rich and/or esteemed highly in the eyes of the world must humbly recognize that he or she is nothing without God in order to receive *true* riches. **James 1:10; 1 Timothy 6:17-18; James 1:11**
- C. One emphasis in these verses is that all of us have an equal *need* for God, and all who choose to receive what He offers are equally *significant* to His body. **Galatians 3:28**

V. God Doesn't Tempt...

- A. Though man often blames God for sin, James continues his instruction by noting that not only does God does not *force* us to sin, but He does not even *tempt* us to sin. **James 1:13**
- B. God does *test* us (**Gen. 22:1**) to see if we will heed His instruction, but He is not to blame for temptation to sin or sin itself. **James 1:14-15**
- C. On the contrary, God is the author of every *good* and *perfect* gift. It is God's will for us to pass the tests He gives us. It is His will for us to become a part of His family and live accordingly. **James 1:16-18**

VI. Swift to Hear, Slow to Speak

- A. Given these truths, it is fitting that we be "swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger." **James 1:19-20**
- B. Though anger is not sinful in itself, we must control anger to ensure that it does not produce sin. Part of this is avoiding lashing out at others in a quick-tempered, hotheaded way. **Ephesians 4:26**
- C. The need to be "swift to hear" applies to our approach to God's Word. His truth has the *ability* to save our souls, but we must *enable* the Word to do this by receiving the Word with a meek, submissive spirit. **James 1:21**

VII. Doers of the Word

- A. While this meekness allows God to transform our minds, our change of thinking must result in a change of *behavior*. Failing to do this is a recipe for self-deception. **James 1:22-25; Matthew 7:21**
- B. Three specific ways in which the truth must be applied in our lives is bridling the tongue, helping those facing trials, and keeping oneself free from worldliness. **James 1:26-27**

XIII. Conclusion

- A. May each of us put these truths into practice in our lives.