

MIRROR WIBBOB ON THE WALL

A REAL FAITH IN A REBELLIOUS WORLD

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF JAMES



LIVINGHOPE

baptist church

*Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who according to
His abundant mercy
has begotten us again to a
Living Hope
through the resurrection of
Jesus Christ from the dead.*

1 Peter 1:3

Community Group Purpose Statement

We, as smaller gatherings of one family, will practice with our lives the gospel truths that we confess with our mouths. Together, we will allow our lives to be challenged by the gospel and one another; we will live lives of boldness and purpose. As we walk in the light of the gospel, we will point to the grace of God and its power to set lives free from sin and death. We will continue praying, teaching, making disciples, and bearing one another's burdens. Following the pattern set before us by Jesus, we will bring joy to our family (the church) and glory to his name.

What is a Community Group?

Community groups are small gatherings of people that meet regularly for friendship, accountability, study and prayer, laughter, and occasionally tears. Community groups are an essential expression of the mission of Living Hope Baptist Church. They're a place where we learn more about Jesus and life together. They're the place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life that God intends for us.

Each community group is unique, shaped by its neighborhood and the people who attend. However, you can expect a weekly gathering in a residence that involves food, conversation, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and service in the neighborhood. At the heart of each community group is the desire to see an authentic community marked by love for Jesus, one another, and the neighborhood.

Why Should I Join a Community Group?

The God of the Bible is a Trinitarian God who is one and three persons: Father, Son, and Spirit. God has made us in his image, which means we are made for community and friendship. And when we are not living in community we suffer because life in a sinful world is too complex and tempting to journey alone. Therefore, community groups are a place where we can live in relationship with one another through the ups and downs of life.

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THE BOOK OF JAMES

INTRODUCTION

James is considered to be the first epistle written in the New Testament. James, the half-brother of Jesus, wrote his epistle to the Jewish Christians scattered throughout the pagan world. It is clear to see that James was heavily influenced by the teachings of Jesus. James expresses similar themes in his own unique way that draw the reader back to the Savior, or to the Savior for the first time.

Douglas J. Moo gives these three characteristics to help summarize James approach to his letter:

- James is intensely practical
- James is concise in his teaching
- James uses many metaphors and illustrations that make his teaching easy to understand and to remember.

James goal is to promote a life consistent with faith in Christ the Lord. Even at this early stage in the life of the church, James sensed a need to call people to genuine faith. While many who read his letter were genuine believers, it is sure that many were not, or many who thought they were but were not. Because of this, James brings out the gospel of grace within his letter. The gospel of grace gives birth through the word and the gospel of grace continues to enable genuine believers to live a real faith in a rebellious world even as they see themselves falling short time and time again.

As we look into the mirror of God's Word through this in depth study of the Letter of James, may each of us see ourselves as God sees us, embrace the truth that we hear, and humble ourselves before the Lord as we seek a real faith in a rebellious world.

CHAPTER 1

*Real Faith and the
Trials of Life*

Chapter 1

Read James 1:1-12

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:

Greetings.

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, **3** for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. **4** And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. **6** But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. **7** For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; **8** he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

9 Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, **10** and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. **11** For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

(NOTE: Remember to look to the text for your answers unless the question clearly states otherwise)

QUESTIONS:

1. What possible things could be revealed from your heart as you examine the way you respond to trials?

2. What responsibility do you have when facing the trials of life?

3. Do you think James is more concerned with what is going on inside your heart than what trial is going on, on the outside? Why is the greatest danger to your faith internal (what's going on in your heart), and not external (the trial itself)?

4. What should your joy focus on in the trials you face? As you examine your own heart, why do you think you struggle at times with joy in the midst of a trial?

5. What do you think is the most common question asked when facing a severe trial? Why is this so?

6. Instead of praying, "Lord get me out of this", how does the text direct us to pray? Why does James direct us to pray this way?

7. What is God's goal for the trials you face? What is it that keeps you from arriving at that goal?

RESPONSE:

In what way did God specifically speak to your heart in this passage?

CHAPTER 2

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Real Faith and Enduring Trials

Chapter 2

Read James 1:12-18

12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. **13** Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. **14** But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. **15** Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. **17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. **18** Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

QUESTIONS:

1. Describe briefly what it may look like for a person to not persevere under a trial? What kind of “thinking” and “doing” might describe that kind of a person?

2. What does James say a person is when they have remained faithful in a trial? How is this different than just being “happy”?

3. What two things are required in order to receive the crown of life? (Note: The crown of life is not a literal crown but rather a symbol of eternal life itself)

4. Loving God is your primary source for enduring through trials. Explain how loving God will enable you to endure.

5. How can we turn a trial for our spiritual maturity into a temptation to sin and fail God?

6. In verse 17, is James more concerned about the amount of good things God gives or simply the source of where good gifts come to us? Therefore, how should we view tests?

RESPONSE:

In what way did God specifically speak to your heart in this passage?

CHAPTER 3

*Real Faith and
Persevering in Obedience*

Chapter 3

Read James 1:19-25

19 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; **20** for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. **21** Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. **23** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. **24** For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. **25** But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

QUESTIONS:

1. How does anger make it difficult to get along with others and to even get along with God?

2. What does the text say is our weapon against the abundance of wickedness that constantly fights against us for victory and dominance?

NOTE: The saving work of the Word (1:21) extends far beyond the day of salvation. In the New Testament, salvation has three aspects:

- Salvation is a past event, for Christ accomplished our salvation in the past. We receive that salvation the day we believe (Luke 19:9; Acts 4:12; 2 Cor. 6:2; Titus 3:5)
- Salvation is a future event, because our deliverance is never complete

until Christ returns, judges men and angels, sends evildoers away from His presence, and restores the heavens and the earth (Matt. 25:31; Rom. 5:9-10; Heb.9:28; 1 Peter 1:5)

- Salvation is a present reality, something we seize and work out day by day (Phil. 2:12)
- James knows salvation is past, present, and future, but his concern in our text is the present. (James, Daniel M. Doriani, p.49)

3. How would you describe careless listening to God's Word that leads to no action?

4. Why is the picture James paints about a mirror a great way to describe how we do or don't obey God's words?

5. As you read this passage, what do you think James is most intent on getting across related to God's Word? Why is he so burdened about this subject?

RESPONSE:

In what way did God specifically speak to your heart in this passage?

CHAPTER 4

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Real Faith and the Test of True Religion

Chapter 4

Read James 1:26-2:7

26 If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. **27** Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. **1** My brothers,[a] show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. **2** For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, **3** and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," **4** have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? **5** Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? **6** But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? **7** Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

QUESTIONS:

1. In the text above (1:26,27), what three things does James highlight as being true religion? How would you fill in this blank? "Proof of true religion lies in a person's _____".

2. If a person has no concern whatsoever of controlling their tongue in a way that pleases God, what does James say that person is doing to himself and how does James classify that person's religion?

3. How is showing mercy to the poor and defenseless members of society being like God? (See Deut. 10:17-19)

4. What emphasis do you think James has in mind when he says to keep yourself from being corrupted by the world?

5. How does showing favoritism violate the elements of true religion that we saw earlier?

6. In what ways do you show favoritism? It would be easy to answer quickly but give it some thought in all the areas of your life and you may be surprised.

RESPONSE:

In what way did God specifically speak to your heart in this passage?

CHAPTER 5

*Real Faith Sees Obedience
as All or Nothing*

Chapter 5

Read James 2:8-13

8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. **9** But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. **10** For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. **11** For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. **12** So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. **13** For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

QUESTIONS:

1. As you read Jesus summary of the law in Mark 12:30,31, how does that “royal law” forbid favoritism?

30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’

31 The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’
There is no other commandment greater than these.”

2. If you do not murder, or steal, or lie, but show favoritism, what does James say you have done?

3. If you pick and choose which commands you will obey or ignore, what does that really make you in your own eyes and who does it ignore and violate?

4. Think about this: Since you break the whole law if you break just one, James seems to be saying that it is all or nothing – we submit to God totally or not at all.

How is this thought hopeless without the gospel?

How is this thought hopeful with the gospel? (See the end of verse 13 for help)

5. Write down some human responses to our sins and failures and then write down the only correct response. (Note: your answer should be related to God's mercy)

Sinful responses:

Biblical Correct response:

RESPONSE:

In what way did God specifically speak to your heart in this passage?

CHAPTER 6
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Real Faith Works

Chapter 6

Read James 2:14-19

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? **15** If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, **16** and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? **17** So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. **18** But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. **19** You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

QUESTIONS:

1. As you look at verse 14, would you say James is teaching that there is a faith that does not save?

2. What does James say that real faith produces? If it does not produce this, what does James call that kind of faith?

3. How does what Jesus will say on the last day correspond to what James is saying in this passage? See Matthew 25:41-43.

4. What does James say about showing a person with no works what real

faith looks like?

5. How does James use the faith of demons to show that there is a faith that does not save and that is not real and genuine? What kinds of spiritual things do you think demons believe?

6. What thoughts enter your mind when you read the following statement? “James does not require believers to do *everything*, but they must do *something*.”

RESPONSE:

In what way did God specifically speak to your heart in this passage?

CHAPTER 7
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*Real Faith
Justified by Works*

Chapter 7

Read James 2:20-26

20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? **21** Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? **22** You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; **23** and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. **24** You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. **25** And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? **26** For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think James is so concerned about people who claim to have faith but there is no evidence in their life? In other words, why is it deadly to know Christianity but not know Christ?

2. According to Romans 4:3, and James 2:23, when was Abraham justified?

3. As you read James 2:21,22, what does James say justified Abraham?

4. So then, real faith was proved by what in Abraham's life? (2:24)

5. What proved Rahab's faith in verse 25? (Joshua 2:9-11 along with Joshua 2:3-8)

6. In your own words, what was James' summary in James 2:26?

7. What contrasts do you see between the two examples James gives of Abraham and Rahab who both had real, living faith?

RESPONSE:

In what way did God specifically speak to your heart in this passage?

CHAPTER 8

*Real Faith Perseveres,
Even When Our
Tongue Fails*

Chapter 8

Read James 3:1-12

1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. **2** For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. **3** If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. **4** Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. **5** So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! **6** And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. **7** For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, **8** but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. **9** With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. **10** From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. **11** Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? **12** Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

QUESTIONS:

1. What tension do you see in the fact that James tells us to control our tongue (1:26) and then in 3:8 he tells us that it is impossible to do so?

2. In verse 2, what does James call a person who would possess the ability to control his tongue?

3. How does your tongue prove or demonstrate your sinfulness?

4. What things in this passage does James compare the tongue with? What is the comparison?

5. These illustrations seem at first to have only two parts. However there are three. What is the third implied part?

The bit and the horse and the _____

The ship and the rudder and the _____

So then, what is it that moves the tongue?

6. If we cannot tame the tongue, where then can we turn for help?

7. Since we cannot control the tongue, should we just give up? What should real faith strive for even though it will fail? What should we focus on the most to help the tongue please God the most?

RESPONSE:

In what way did God specifically speak to your heart in this passage?

CHAPTER 9
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*Real Faith Displayed
in Wisdom from Above*

Chapter 9

Read James 3:13-18

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. **14** But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. **15** This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. **16** For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. **17** But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. **18** And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

QUESTIONS:

1. What two ways of life are seen in this passage?

2. What is the source for each way of life?

3. What are the results of each kind of wisdom? Real faith produces what from its wisdom and a false faith produces what from its wisdom?

4. How would you characterize a church marked by wisdom from above and also a church marked by wisdom from below? In other words, what would those two churches look like?

5. Why do you think wisdom, whether from above or below, is so closely related to characteristics of behavior towards others? In other words, what is the connection?

RESPONSE:

In what way did God specifically speak to your heart in this passage?

CHAPTER 10
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*Real Faith Embraces
Grace over Worldliness*

Chapter 10

Read James 4:1-6

1 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? **2** You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. **3** You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. **4** You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. **5** Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? **6** But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

QUESTIONS:

1. Where does James say public fights and quarrels come from? According to James, is it right to say that when we fight and quarrel it is the fault of others? Where does the fault really lie (v:2)?

2. What are some good causes to fight for? What are some dangers to avoid even when fighting for good things?

3. Try to explain briefly the following statement: A good way to see if something is worldly in your heart is to see if you can ask God for that thing you desire. (Hint: Could you thank God for this thing you desire)

4. What do you think it means to have a “friendship with the world?” (v.4)

5. What are the implications for being an “enemy of God”?
For the Unbeliever?

For the Believer?

6. What is the hope that you see in verse 6?
For the Unbeliever?

For the Believer?

RESPONSE:

In what way did God specifically speak to your heart in this passage?

CHAPTER 11
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*Real Faith Embraces
Humility*

Chapter II

Read James 4:5-10

5 Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? **6** But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” **7** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8** Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **9** Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the warning and what is the promise that is found in verse 6?

Warning:

Promise:

2. What is the promise for those who humble themselves in verse 10?

3. The word “submit” means to “arrange under”. In your own words, what do you think it means to submit yourselves to God?

4. Is the true test of submission doing those things you are told that you agree with or doing those things you are told that seem hard or strange? Explain your answer.

5. As you look at verse 7 we are told to submit to God but to resist the devil. This is really a question as to who is the _____ in our lives.

6. What things do you think are included under “drawing near to God?”

7. As you read verses 8-10, what response is called for and what is the promise?

For the Unbeliever?

For the Believer?

The Promise for Both?

RESPONSE:

In what way did God specifically speak to your heart in this passage?

CHAPTER 12
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*Real Faith
Rejects Pride*

Chapter 12

Read James 4:11-17

11 Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. **12** There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor? **13** Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— **14** yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. **15** Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” **16** As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. **17** So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

QUESTIONS:

1. What kinds of motives are in our hearts when we slander others? How is this related to pride in the heart?

2. How is slandering others and sinfully judging others the opposite of humility?

3. As you look at verses 11 and 12, when you slander someone and sinfully judge him or her, you are putting yourself in the place of whom?

4. We know it is not wrong to plan as there is abundance of Scripture that call us to be good stewards and to plan (example: Proverbs 6:6 Consider the ant....). With that in mind, what is James emphasis in verses 13-16?

5. How can you tell if your planning was really selfishly motivated? How would you define selfishly motivated?

6. In verses 16 & 17, what two words does James use to describe pride and arrogance? How does sinfully judging others and planning in arrogance hurt your relationship with God?

7. Why do humans find it so easy to gossip and slander and move ahead in life without considering God's will? What do we all need?

RESPONSE:

In what way did God specifically speak to your heart in this passage?

CHAPTER 13
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*Real Faith Warns
Against Idolatry*

Chapter 13

Read James 5:1-6

1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. **2** Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. **3** Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. **4** Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. **5** You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. **6** You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

QUESTIONS:

1. After reading Ecclesiastes 5:10, what does this say about the idol of money? How does this verse complement James 5:1

“He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity.” Eccl. 5:10

2. Do you find that you envy those with “money”? Do you find that you may be jealous? Do you think at times God has not given you what He has given others and you resent that?

3. In verse 2 & 3, what does James say happens to wealth and what judgment does it pronounce against those who worship it?

4. Look at the following verses and write down what they say about the use of money:

1 Timothy 6:8 - "But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content."

1 Timothy 6:17 - "As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy."

1 Timothy 6:18 - "They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,"

5. How have the rich hurt the poor in verses 4-6? How is the evil heart exposed in these verses? What test of true religion are they failing in? (James 1:27)

6. If we treat others who are "wealthy" differently than we do others, what does that expose in our heart? Why do you think you and others do that?

RESPONSE:

In what way did God specifically speak to your heart in this passage?

CHAPTER 14
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*Real Faith
Patiently Endures*

Chapter 14

Read James 5:7-12

7 Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. **8** You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. **9** Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. **10** As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. **11** Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. **12** But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think James calls the believers to be patient? What is going on in their lives that would demand endurance?

2. Describe yourself when you become impatient? (Does this cause you to fail in the three tests of true religion? ...*your tongue....focusing on the needy and helpless more than yourself.....living with a worldly mind set that focuses on self*)

3. When does James say the difficulty will end for sure? In your life, does God promise the difficulty will end right away or soon just because you are enduring?

4. In verse 9, what does Jesus return motivate us to guard against? Why is it easy to fail in this area when going through a difficult time?

5. As you look at verse 11, what three things should be a great help to us as we endure through some very difficult times?

The _____ of the Lord

The Lord is _____.

The Lord is _____.

How does knowing these three things help you to endure?

RESPONSE:

In what way did God specifically speak to your heart in this passage?

CHAPTER 15
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Real Faith Prays

Chapter 15

Read James 5:13-20

13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. **14** Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. **15** And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. **16** Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. **17** Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. **18** Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit. **19** My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, **20** let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

QUESTIONS:

1. What word do you see in verses 13-18 that is repeated in each of the verses? This will give you a hint as to the subject James is focusing on in this passage.

2. Who prays as seen in the following verses?

Verse 13:

Verse 14:

Verse 16:

3. What are some times that we need others to pray for us?

4. As you look at verse 15, what might be a reason that this person is sick? If this is true, what does it imply about his or her heart condition by now calling the elders to pray?

5. Other than physical sickness, what are some other times or situations that you may call the elders for prayer on your behalf? What might prevent you from calling the elders to pray for you?

6. Why do you think Elijah was given as an example for prayer? Other than the example James gives, there is another example found in 1 Kings 19:1-11. How do these 2 examples encourage us to pray?

7. As you look at James 5:19,20, what implications are there for believers and unbelievers?

Believers:

Unbelievers:

RESPONSE:

In what way did God specifically speak to your heart in this passage?

PRAYER NEEDS:



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