

Getting Practical: A Study of the Book of James

WHO IS JAMES?

“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,” James 1:1a

WHO WAS IT WRITTEN TO?

“To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.” James 1:1b

BUILDING CONFIDENCE and CHARACTER

EXTERNAL PRESSURES

JAMES 1:2-4

Natural Response and Result:

1. All too often trials prompt groaning and complaining.
2. This response does not build Christian maturity.

The Right Response for Mature Believers:

1. Rejoice IN the trial NOT FOR the trial.

Advantages of rejoicing in the trial:

1. Endurance = Finish
2. Spiritual Maturity = WIN
3. God is more interested in our character than he is our comfort.

How do we grow into spiritual maturity?

THREE THINGS

1. FAITH - James 1:5-8
2. HOPE - James 1:9-11
3. LOVE - James 1:12

INTERNAL PRESSURES

James outlines the source, steps, and solution to temptation:

THE SOURCE:

James 1:13-15

1. God does not tempt.
2. The source of temptation is found within me.

THE STEPS:

James 1:15

1. Unchecked lust yields sin.
2. Unconfessed sin brings death.

THE SOLUTION:

James 1:16-18

1. Don't be deceived.
2. Look to your heavenly Father for his perfect gift.
3. Look to the truth of His Word.

JAMES 1:19-25

Receptivity and Responsiveness to the Word are essential to spiritual growth.

JAMES 1:26-27

Where's the proof?

- MOUTH - James 1:26
- CONDUCT - James 1:27
- CHARACTER - James 1:27

Stand with CONFIDENCE. Trials or temptations will not topple one who is anchored in God's truth and applying His truth to his/her life.

QUESTIONS AND APPLICATION TO CONSIDER FOR THIS WEEK:

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
2. Which verse seems to contain the most important thought in this passage? Which one stands out to you?

3. Make a list of promises you find in this passage.
4. One way to know if you struggle with any part of the question is to ask yourself, 'Is there anything in this passage that I could not explain to a friend?' Write that question down and ask someone how they would answer or look into it further for yourself.
5. Do you think it is really possible to rejoice or find pure joy in your trials? Why or why not?
6. Have you ever experienced a situation that you would not want to have repeated, but you wouldn't change that you went through it because you are stronger? What was that experience and how has it shaped you?
7. Think about this passage and what it means to you. What action should you take? What do you need to change or work on so that what you have read and heard is real in your life?