



JAMES

Lesson 6: Responding to trials.

Study Guide

James 2:1-4 CSB

¹ *My brothers and sisters, do not show favoritism as you hold on to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ.*

² *For if someone comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and a poor person dressed in filthy clothes also comes in,*

³ *if you look with favor on the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Sit here in a good place," and yet you say to the poor person, "Stand over there," or "Sit here on the floor by my footstool,"*

⁴ *haven't you made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?*

- Practical Discipleship for Everyone.

- Bible Memorization. Psalm 119:11
 - I have treasured your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you.

Last Week's Memory Verse:

James 1:22

But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

This Week's Memory Verse:

James 2:1

My brothers and sisters, do not show favoritism as you hold on to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ.

Greek word for "hold," ἔχω (echō), implies not just possession but a commitment to the character or lifestyle of Jesus.

"hold" - "accompany" (Hebrews 6:9)

Hebrews 6:9 CSB

But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner.

Contentment is found in _____ sufficiency, regardless of circumstances.

Philippians 4:10-13 CSB

10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly because once again you renewed your care for me. You were, in fact, concerned about me but lacked the opportunity to show it. 11 I don't say this out of need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I find myself. 12 I know how to make do with little, and I know how to make do with a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content—whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need. 13 I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me.

The development of faith involves not just _____ to what we have but also learning to _____ loss or lack.

Point 1: Does God really care?

James points out the struggle to _____ in God's unwavering goodness amidst trials.

James underscores the glorious nature of Christ, emphasizing the necessity of _____ in God's consistent _____.

Trials, as James describes act as obstructions, casting shadows on our _____ of God.

The term "doxa" in Greek, used by James, denotes "good opinion, praise, honor, glory."

_____ drives _____.

We take matters into our own hands because we _____ the work of God's hands.

Matthew 7:9-11

9 Who among you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him.

James is uncovering the challenge of sustaining the belief that God is _____.

Distinction διακρίνω diakrínō, dee-ak-ree'-no; from G1223 and G2919; to separate thoroughly, i.e. (literally and reflexively) to withdraw from, or (by implication) oppose; figuratively, to discriminate.

The real reason for giving the best seats to the rich and devaluing the poor is because they _____.

These thoughts are _____, 2:4.

Our life is constantly moving in the direction of our _____.

Proverbs 23:7 NKJV.

For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, But his heart is not with you.

We can't just adjust the _____, we have to let God change our _____ about Him.

Trials expose _____ weaknesses.

Point 2: Shouldn't I have more control? 2:4

Conflicts often arise from individuals seeking _____ over their own lives, stemming from _____ or lack of _____.

Our inclination is to _____ problems and seize _____.

Instead of surrendering to God's _____, we fight for control in earthly ways.

To keep the church harmonious, we must _____ our problems with God's people rather than _____ them.

Galatians 6:2

Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Key takeaways:

1. Doubting God's providential care is a real struggle.
2. Fighting for control gets us out of character.
3. We need to examine our motives.