

Examining Myself in Light of the Book of James

Warren Wiersbe summarizes his writings on the book of James with a series of probing questions that every believer should consider:

1. Am I becoming more and more patient in the testings of life?
2. Do I play with temptation or resist it from the start?
3. Do I find joy in obeying the Word of God, or do I merely study it and learn it?
4. Are there any prejudices that shackle me?
5. Am I able to control my tongue? (Am I yielding my tongue to God's Spirit?)
6. Am I a peacemaker rather than a troublemaker?
7. Do people come to me for spiritual wisdom?
8. Am I friend of God or a friend of the world?
9. Do I make plans without considering the will of God?
10. Am I selfish when it comes to money? Am I unfaithful in the paying of my bills?
11. Do I naturally depend on prayer when I find myself in some kind of trouble?
12. Am I the kind of person others seek for prayer support?
13. What is my attitude toward the wandering brother? Gossip or restoration?



“Grow Up!” | Pastor Micah Bosworth

James 1:21-22

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Introduction

James is Jesus' little half-brother. He was at first an unbeliever and skeptic (John 7:5). He became a believer after the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:3-7). He is the pastor at the church in Jerusalem and a well-respected spiritual leader in the early church.

He is writing to scattered Christians who are enduring much persecution and tribulation. He is helping them to be mature in Christ and grounded in their faith. He is preparing them for worse trials, but eventual hope!

James will be killed in Jerusalem around 10 years of writing this letter. The whole letter indicates that the problems of our 21st century church were also problems in the 1st century!

Chapter 1

Be Patient in Trials

- Embrace trials with joy!
- Don't ask "How can I get out of this?" but "What can I get out of this?"
- God is both gracious and generous in giving wisdom
- Understand the true source of temptation — your lusts.
- Understand the true nature of sin — it is destructive!
- Read and obey the Word of God
- Have an obedient, pure religion

Chapter 2

Be Authentic in Faith

- Partiality, judgementalism, and politics in the church are incompatible with the gospel and violate the law of Christ — loving others.
- No hypocrisy in the church
- Genuine faith is visible through genuine works
- You are saved by faith alone, but your faith never stands alone. It will be backed by works.
- Someone truly saved will be able to trace some sort of spiritual progress in their life.

Chapter 3

Be Intentional in Words

- Not everyone should teach, because there is a stricter judgment for their words
- The tongue is an indicator of what's inside.
- Don't just "watch your mouth," check your heart!
- False wisdom leads to an unstable life
- True wisdom brings righteousness and peace to its environment

Chapter 4

Be Humble in Spirit

- Fleshly behavior destroys the church
- Don't let your heart and life become a war zone. Determine to make it a worship zone!
- God is the giver of all grace
- Humility is the doorway to grace
- Humility prevents presumptuousness. It involves God in our planning.

Chapter 5

Be Ready for the Lord

- Deal honestly with each other
- Be patient when others mistreat you
- Let God be your defense
- God will redeem us and defend us
- Keep an eternal perspective — look to the coming of Jesus!
- Handle every situation with prayer
- Be honest about your struggles
- Be active in recovering others

Conclusion

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