

**WOMEN IN THE WORD
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH**

THE BOOK OF JAMES - Growing Up in Christ

Scripture Reference Notes – December 5, 2023

Lesson Eight

Patience – James 5:1-20

Chapter Summary:

Chapter 1: Confident stand - What a Christian has.

Chapter 2: Compassionate service - What a Christian does.

Chapter 3: Careful speech - What a Christian says.

Chapter 4: Contrite submission – What a Christian feels.

Chapter 5: Concerning sharing – What a Christian gives.

James 5:1 - Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you.

James starts with: **Now listen, NIV, Come now, NASB and Look here, NLT**, to get their attention, make his point known with a sharp warning regarding the worthlessness of their riches, what they have done because they are rich (abused their wealth), rebukes them and warns them of the misery and judgment to come, speaking in eschatological terms.

James says - Weep: to cry; to express deep sorrow.

Wail: To make a long, loud, high-pitched cry, as in grief, sorrow, or fear.

Misery: a condition of mental or emotional unhappiness or distress.

Hodges: “His words are designed to awaken his readers by means of a crisp announcement about the eschatological doom of all human wealth.”

Ps. 62:10 – Do not trust in extortion or take pride in stolen goods; though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

Isa. 13:6 – Wail, for the day of the Lord is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty.

Jer. 4:8 – So put on sackcloth, lament and wail, for the fierce anger of the Lord has not turned away from us.

Ez. 30:2-3: Son of man, prophesy and say: This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Wail and say, Alas for that day! For the day is near, the day of the Lord is near, a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nations.

1 Timothy 6:9-10: People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of

evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

James 5:2 - Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes.

NIV Study Bible regarding clothes: Clothing was one of the main forms of wealth in the ancient world.

Ps. 39:11 – You rebuke and discipline men for their sin; you consume their wealth like a moth, each man is but a breath.

Is. 50:9 – It is the Sovereign Lord who helps me. Who is he that will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up.

Jer. 12:3 – Yet you know me, O Lord; you see me and test my thoughts about you. Drag them off like sheep to be butchered! Set them apart for the day of slaughter!

God calls us to store up heavenly treasures that are lasting.

Matt. 6:19-20: Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

1 Tim. 6:17 – Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God.

Swindoll: “Through time and disuse, food goes bad, garments get eaten by moths, and precious metals tarnish. By hoarding rather than sharing, the wealth of the rich rots and rusts.”

James 5:3 - Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.

Corroded: Eaten away as by acid or oxidation, to weaken or destroy gradually; undermine manners and miserliness that corrode the human spirit.

Hoarded: to collect and often hide away a supply of something.

NIV: The result of hoarding. It will both testify against and judge the selfish rich.

Matt. 6:21 – For where your treasure is, there your heart will also be.

Ps. 62:10 – Do not trust in extortion and take pride in stolen goods; though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

Prov. 22:1 – A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

1 Tim. 6:7 – For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.

Acts 2:44-45 – All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

Prov. 19:17 – He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done.

In the last days: judgment is a certainty. They will be judged for the way they have used what God has given.

Hodges: “What James foresees is ‘poisoned’ wealth which will be so useless (indeed dangerous) that it will be allowed to corrode and decay. This accumulation of useless wealth will stand, therefore, as a witness against the rich of the world since they were so foolish as to have heaped up treasure in the last days.”

2 Tim. 3:1 – But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.

Mark 1:15 – The time has come, he said, “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news.”

Luke 17:30-35 – It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day no one who is on the roof of his house, with his goods inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything.

Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left.

James 5:4 - Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.

Lev. 19:13 – Do not hold back wages of a hired man overnight.

Deut. 24:14-15: Do not take advantage of a hired man who is poor and needy, whether he is a brother Israelite or an alien living in one of your towns. Pay him his wages each day before sunset, because he is poor and is counting on it. Otherwise, he may cry to the Lord against you, and you will be guilty of sin.

Prov. 14:31 – He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

Jer. 22:13 – Woe to him who builds his palace by unrighteousness, his upper rooms by injustice, making his countrymen work for nothing, not paying them for their labor.

Mal. 3:5 – So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers, and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me, says the Lord Almighty.

FBC: The only resource the poor had was to call out to the Lord Almighty. This name for God is, literally, Lord of Sabaoth; it conveys the sense of awe, power and majesty of the Creator. The supreme ruler will intercede for the poor.

Ps. 18:6 – In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears.

Ps. 31:2 – Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue, a strong fortress to save me.

James 5:5-6: You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered innocent men who were not opposing you.

NIV Bible study: The wicked rich are like cattle that continue to fatten themselves on the very day they are to be slaughtered, totally unaware of coming destruction.

Luke 6:24 – But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort.

Ez. 16:49 – Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy.

Joel 1:15 – Alas for that day! For the day of the Lord is near, it will come like destruction from the Almighty.

Amos 6:1 – Woe to you who are complacent in Zion, and to you who feel secure on Mount Samaria, you notable men of the foremost nation, to whom the people of Israel come!

Luke 16:25-26: But Abraham replied, “Son, remember that in your lifetime you received good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but how he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.”

1 Timothy 6:17 – Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

1 Tim. 6:18-19: Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

James 5:7 – Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains.

Patient: endurance; hopeful forbearance, long-tempered.

Wiersbe: “to stay put and stand fast when you’d like to run away. We must patiently endure hardships and heartaches until Jesus returns.”

Proverbs 14:29 – A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly.

Proverbs 15:18 – Better a little with the fear of the Lord than great wealth with turmoil.

Romans 2:4 – Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness leads you toward repentance.

1 Peter 2:20 – But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

Lord’s Coming: specific event, a hope well known to the readers.

Zech. 10:1 – Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime; it is the Lord who makes the storm clouds. He gives showers of rain to men, and plants of the field to everyone.

Dt. 11:14 – then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and oil.

Jer. 5:24 – They do not say to themselves, “Let us fear the Lord our God, who gives autumn and spring rains in season, who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest.”

Joel 2:23 – Be glad, O people of Zion, rejoice in the Lord your God, for he has given you the autumn rains in righteousness. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains as before.

Hiebert: “Having sown his field, the farmer looks forward to the harvest, but he knows that there must be an interval of growth and development before he can expect to receive the precious fruit of the earth.”

Gal. 6:9 – Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Titus 2:11-13: For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope, the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Matt. 24:42-44: Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

1 Thess. 4:16 – For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel, with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

John 14:3 – And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Matt 24:27 – For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Matt 24:36-37 – No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the day of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

James 5:8 – You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.

2 Thess. 2:16-17 – May the Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

Ps. 55:22 – Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.

1 Peter 5:6-7 – Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Romans 13:11– And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

James 5:9 – Don’t grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door.

In the Greek, **grumble** means to groan or to sigh.

Rom. 13:11-12 – And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

James 4:11 – Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him, speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.

Ps. 94:2 – Rise up, O Judge of the earth; pay back to the proud what they deserve.

1 Cor. 4:5 – Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and expose the motives of men’s hearts.

James 4:12 – There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you, who are you to judge your neighbor.

1 Peter 4:5 – But they will have to give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

Matt. 24:33 – Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.

Hodges: “His Christian readers must fully silence their complaints against one another in the realization that their Lord and Judge can at any moment appear and sit down at the Bema (Judgment Seat) in order to assess their lives. They must therefore be careful that He does not find them nurturing a complaining spirit against their fellow believers.”

Rom. 14:12-13a – So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore, let us stop passing judgment on one another.

James 5:10 – Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

James 5:10 *The Message* – Take the old prophets as your mentors. They put up with anything, went through everything, and never once quit, all the time honoring God. What a gift life is to those who stay the course.

Romans 15:4 – For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Matt. 5:10-12 – Rejoice and be glad because great is your reward in heaven for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matt. 24:12-14 – Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

2 Tim. 3:12 – In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

Rev. 22:12 – Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.

James 5:11 – As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Blessed: FBC – The background to the English word is almost entirely religious, having to do with thoughts of God’s approval.

Barclay: “The great fact about Job is that in spite of all his agonizing questionings which tore at his heart, he never lost his faith in God.”

Job 13:15 – Though he slay me, yet I will hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face.

Job 16:19 – Even now my witness is in heaven; my advocate is on high.

Job 5:17 – Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.

Job 42:10 – After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before.

Job 42:12a – The Lord blessed the latter part of Job’s life more than the first.

Heb. 10:36 – You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

Is. 43:2-3: When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Ps. 103:8 – The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

Ps.111:4 – He has caused his wonders to be remembered, the Lord is gracious and compassionate.

Ps. 145:8 – The Lord is gracious and compassionate; slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

Ex. 34:6a – And he passed in front of Moses proclaiming, ‘The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

James 5:12 – Above all, my brothers, do not swear, not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your ‘yes’ be ‘yes’, and your ‘No’ be ‘no’, or you will be condemned.

Swearing: Swindoll - “take an oath, to grasp onto something with our words.”

Exodus 20:7 – You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

Hodges: “The oath-taker falls too easily into hypocrisy since it gives him the opportunity to tell lies under the cover of a solemn claim to truthfulness.”

Matt. 26:71-74: Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.” He denied it again, with an oath: “I don’t know the man!” After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away.” Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore by them, “I don’t know the man!”

Matt. 5:33-37 – Again, you have heard it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.’ But I tell you, Do not swear at all: Either by heaven, for it is God’s throne, or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. Simply let your ‘yes’ be ‘yes’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

James 5:13 – Is anyone of you in trouble/suffering (NIV), Is anyone among you suffering? (NASB), Are any of you suffering hardships? (NLT). He should pray. Is

anyone happy/cheerful (NIV), Is anyone cheerful (NASB), Are any of you happy? (NLT). Let him sing songs of praise.

Trouble – distress, affliction.

Suffering – to endure hardship/endure loss. (physical, mental, emotional or spiritual). Things like: (disease, discouragement, anxiety, financial issues, relationship conflicts). The response: He/she should pray.

Matt. 26:39: Going a little further, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.

Ps. 50:15 – and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you; and you will honor me.

Hebrew 4:16 – Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Luke 18:1 – Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. (The Parable of the Persistent Woman)

Eph. 5:19-20 – Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Col. 3:16 – Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Prov. 17:22 – A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

Prov. 15:13 – A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit.

James 5:14 – Is anyone of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.

Sick – weak from physical illness.

Solution – call on the elders.

Elders – spiritual leaders of the church/spiritually mature believers.

1 Peter 5:1-3 – To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness for Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers, not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

Anoint him with oil – There were several uses for oil in Bible. One was for anointing like David was consecrated with oil. (1 Sam. 16:13). Another was for medicinal purposes or hygienic purposes for example, the story of the good Samaritan.

Luke 10:34 – He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him.

Ps. 23:5 – You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Is. 1:6 – From the sole of your foot to the top of your head there is no soundness, only wounds and welts and open sores, not cleansed or bandaged or soothed with oil.

Mk. 6:13 – They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

John 14:13-14: And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

James 5:15 – And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

Prayer offered in faith – from the heart depending on and trusting God for the answer without doubting as in 1:5-8.

Make well/restore – the sick person, physical and spiritual healing.

Raise up: The Lord does the healing not the elders or the oil. Only God heals.

FBC: “The prayer offered in faith gives God the free hand to work.”

Someone said: “Much current teaching in the contemporary church on the subject of ‘spiritual healing’ rests on the false assumption that it is God’s will that everybody should enjoy at all times perfect physical health. There is nothing in the NT to justify this assumption. There is quite the opposite. Paul’s thorn in the flesh is a prime example.”

2 Cor. 12:7-9 – To keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

1 Cor. 5:5 – hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed, and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.

1 Cor. 11:29-30 – For anyone who eats or drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.

John 9:2-3 – As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi,’ who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind? Neither this man nor his parents sinned, said Jesus, but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.

Forgiveness: to pardon or acquit of sins; acquittal.

Forgiveness sets us free.

Eph. 1:7- In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

Eph. 4:32 – Be kind and compassionate to one another, just as in Christ God forgave you.

2 Cor. 2:5-7 – If anyone has caused grief, he has not so much grieved me as he has grieved all of you, to some extent, not to put it too severely. The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient for him. Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

James 5:16 – Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous man is powerful and effective.

1 John 1:9 – If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Matt. 3:6 – Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

Acts 19:18 – Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds.

1 Peter 2:24 – He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

Andi's notes: "Praying according to God's will, praying according to Scripture, praying specifically – but not manipulating God, pray believing that God hears and answers prayer, praying 'in faith.'"

Righteous man: acting in a morally correct manner; correct by divine declaration.

FBC: The prayer is effective because the person who is praying is declared righteous at salvation.

1 John 5:14-15 – This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we asked of him.

James 5:17-18 – Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 5:18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

Elijah: a man of prayer, a righteous man.

Hodges: "If readers were tempted to think that Elijah was a kind of spiritual superman whose prayer life could never be reproduced, they were wrong.

Prayed earnestly: Greek: (proseuchēi, proseuxato), "with prayer he prayed," "he really prayed."

1 Kings 17:1 – Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.

1 Kings 18:42b and 45 – Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees.

45 - Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain came on and Ahab rode off to Jezreel.

Acts 14:15 – Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them.

Evans: “Yet he knew he had a God who is sovereign and expects his people to pray to him. Do you? When righteous believers pray passionately, biblically, and persistently, they like Elijah can look with expectation for divine reversals in their earthly circumstances.”

James 5:19-20 – My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, 20 – remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins. Wander/straying: a slow fade, backsliding, a sinning Christian who needs to be restored, one straying from the truth.

Turn back: to turn around, head in the opposite direction.

Gal. 6:1-2: Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you may also be tempted. Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Matt. 18:15 – If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.

1 John 5:16 – If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life.

Daniel 12:3 – Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

Save him from death: rescue him from the deadly consequences of sin.

Psalms 32:1 – Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Proverbs 10:12b – Love covers over all wrongs.

1 Peter 4:8 – Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Swindoll: “One of the least pleasant aspects of ministry is confronting those who stray. It’s not popular. It’s not glamorous. It’s not easy. And it’s not always received well. Frequently it leads to misunderstanding when the heart is not prepared by God to change. But it’s biblical, necessary, and when the Spirit works repentance in the person’s heart, it can be a blessing to both the one who corrects and the one we have corrected.”

Taken from Warren Wiersbe's commentary: *Be Mature*

James' emphasis has been spiritual maturity. Wiersbe lists several questions at the end of his book to help assess our own spiritual maturity. Just some questions to ask ourselves as they relate to the book of James. I have added Scripture references that relate to the question.

1. **Am I becoming more and more patient in the testings of life?** James 1:2-5: Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.
2. **Do I play with temptation or resist it from the start?** James 1:13-15: When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.
3. **Do I find joy in obeying the Word of God or do I merely study it and learn it?** James 1:22 - Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.
4. **Are there any prejudices that shackle me?** James 2:8-9: If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. ⁹But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.
5. **Am I able to control my tongue?** James 3:9-10: With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.
6. **Am I a peacemaker rather than a troublemaker? Do people come to me for spiritual wisdom?** James 3:13 – Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.
7. **Am I a friend of God or a friend of the world?** James 4:4 - You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. James 4:7-8: Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
8. **Do I make plans without considering the will of God?** James 4:14-17: Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.
9. **Am I selfish when it comes to money? Am I unfaithful in the paying of my bills?** James 5:1-6: Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.
10. **Do I naturally depend on prayer when I find myself in some kind of trouble?** James 5:13-15: Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.
11. **Am I the kind of person others seek for prayer support?** James 5:16 - Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.
12. **What is my attitude toward the wandering brother? Do I criticize and gossip, or do I seek to restore him in love?** James 5:19-20: My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Don't just grow old – grow up?

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