

1UP week 5

Small group study guide

Message Summary

This week Pastor Ken finished up our study on the book of James by looking at the last portion of chapter four and all of chapter five. This week's teaching centered around two main concepts...

- Does the "spot light" of our living and wealth shine more on us or God?
- How does the Bible teach us to build patience and what to do in those seasons of waiting?

Shining the Spotlight on God

Read James 4:13 – 5:6

Describe a time when you felt someone was "taking unfair" advantage of another for their own gain?

How did you feel, and how do you think the others felt?

James also cautions us to be wise in the ultimate purpose and end goal of the wealth we earn and accumulate. Talk about what the "wisdom of the world" vs. the "wisdom of God" would teach in regards to the handling of wealth. Which one comes "more naturally"? (see James 5:5)

Additional scripture Romans 12:2

James talks a great deal about humility.
Describe what humility looks like to you.
How can you tell if a person is humble?
Is it possible to be humble even if humility is never expressed?

Arrogance is self-dominate. For example, saying, "I'm going to do, I'm this, I'm..." shines the spot light on ME. Humility is action taken that is God-dominate and God-dependent. It shines the spotlight on HIM.

Describe what confidence looks like for the arrogant vs. the humble person.

An arrogant person may do certain things but it's all about them.
A humble person may do the exact same thing but the spotlight is on God.

Here's an example: the builders of the Titanic were "confident" that the ship they built was "unsinkable". But they were tragically wrong. Their confidence was in the fact they thought the work they did could never be destroyed.

What are ways we as Christians can “encourage one another” to be sure our confidence and living is not misguided? Discuss the role of scripture and right relationships.

Additional scripture: Proverbs 27:17; Ephesians chapter 4; Psalm 71:4; I Peter 5:6-7; Matthew 18:4; Isaiah 26:3

James makes the case throughout his letter we cannot separate our core convictions and beliefs from our action. If this is so, where are the areas we know we need to be more consistent to live what we believe? What are some practical ways you have found that help you to live the way you desire?

Additional scripture: Deuteronomy 15:19-21 (NIV)

What does this scripture speak to regarding the “heart of the law vs. the letter of the law”?

Understanding the Role of Patience and Actions as we Partner with God

Read James 5:7-8 (NIV)

Pastor Ken referred to the “partnership” opportunity God invites us to: we are faithful to do our part and we realize there is a part only God can do. Share some areas where you have seen that as you have been faithful to do your part and you can clearly see God did His part.

What does it mean to “confirm” your faith or to “work in the field” before and after the rains come? Remember as Pastor Ken said, no man can make it rain, nor can any man make a plant grow, but God expects us to be busy doing our part (like the farmer), confirming our faith in agreement with his promises.

Where in your life do you realize you’ve been idle, but you know there are things you could do to confirm your faith?

Describe a time when you had to “wait” on the Lord.

When is it easy, when is it difficult, to patiently wait on the Lord?

Read James 4:17

What does this passage mean to you?

What is an area you are going to work on in relationship to this verse?

Pray for one another