



TEACH ME
THE BIBLE PODCAST

STUDY GUIDE

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CHAPTER

3

THE BOOK OF

J A M E S

Faith, Works and Blessing



James 3

If you are new to the Story of the Bible or would like to review the Story:
Listen to the following TMTB Podcasts:

The Story: Understanding the “Big Story” (30 min)

Old Testament: Walk Through the Broad Story (27 min)

Timeline: New Testament Beginnings (35 min)

Letters: Paul’s Writing to the Churches–Part 1 (30 min)

REVIEW

*“Let not many become teachers, my brethren,
knowing that as such we will incur a greater condemnation.”
(James 3:1)*

James’s point in chapter 3 is simple: teaching error (i.e., teaching partiality, judging with impure motives, being motivated by bitter jealousy and selfish ambition) is arrogant and a lie against the truth. Sound teaching must always recognize that “*we all stumble in many ways*” and are therefore all in need of mercy. Correct teaching (i.e., “*the wisdom from above,*” see 3:17) is “*pure, peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, and without hypocrisy.*”



James 3

MONDAY

Listen to the James 3 podcast.

TUESDAY

James uses the term “brethren” 20 times in his letter. Read James 1:2, 9, 16, 19; 2:1, 5, 14, 15; 3:1, 10, 12; 4:11 (3x); 5:7, 9, 10, 12, 19. Now reread 2:1. The readers are clearly believers.

Can believers be deceived? Can believers teach error?

How is a believer to know the difference between error and truth?

WEDNESDAY

The word for “stumble” is used 6 times in the New Testament. Read Romans 11:11; James 2:10; 3:2; 2 Peter 1:10; and Jude 24. False teaching always leads to tragic consequences.

Now reread James 3.

What is the outcome of sound teaching?



James 3

THURSDAY

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 30:14; Matthew 12:33-37.

What is the relationship between what one believes and how one speaks (control of tongue) and acts (control of body)?

FRIDAY

James 3:17-18 reads, *“But the wisdom from above is first, on the one hand, pure, then peaceable, gentle, obedient, full of mercy and good fruits, non-judging, without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness sown in peace does (or makes) peace.”*

The “*wisdom*” from God is central to James. Both James and the antagonist claim to have this wisdom. However, James explains that if one does not understand how trials relates to the wisdom of God then that one is lacking the wisdom of God.

Read 1:5; 3:13-18.

How would you explain the relation between wisdom and trials?