

The Teachings of James

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The Teachings of James

by Jonathan Cooper

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Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper
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James 1

James 1:1: "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting."

- This letter was written by James.
- James identifies himself as a servant of God.
- James identifies himself as a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- James wrote this letter to the Jews who had been scattered throughout the world (the "twelve tribes which are scattered abroad").
- James sent his greetings to the Jews.
- At the time this letter was written there were Jews scattered throughout the world.
- Jesus is Lord.
- Jesus is the Messiah (the Christ).

James 1:2: "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;"

- James refers to fellow Christians as "brethren".
- James calls his fellow Christians "brethren", not "brothers and sisters". That wasn't seen as sexist or inappropriate.
- Christians should look at trials and suffering as a source of joy.
- Christians should rejoice when they encounter periods of their lives that are full of suffering.

- Christians should expect to encounter times of suffering. This shouldn't be unexpected or surprising.
- If suffering should be a cause of rejoicing among Christians, then that means there's a positive aspect to suffering that Christians should value.
- James depicts suffering as something that Christians "fall into" (like some sort of unexpected trap or hole).

James 1:3: "Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience."

- The reason that Christians should rejoice during times of suffering is because suffering tests our faith, and the testing of our faith is what produces patience.
- It's important for Christians to develop patience.
- Patience is an important virtue that Christians should have.
- The way to develop patience is through times of trial and suffering.
- The way to develop patience is through times when our faith is being tested, which happens during times of suffering.
- Times of suffering test our faith.
- The testing of our faith produces patience.
- There are times when our faith will be tested.
- It's good for our faith to be tested through suffering, because the fruit of that suffering is patience.

James 1:4: "But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

- Christians should endure suffering in order to develop patience.
- Patience is important. Christians need patience in order to be perfect.
- A Christian who lacks patience is lacking something important, and isn't perfect.
- If we want to be perfect, and have everything that we need to faithfully serve God, then we need patience. The way to develop patience is through suffering.
- James said that the work of developing patience is a "perfect work". It's a work that helps us toward perfection, and is a work we should rejoice over.
- James sees value in suffering, because of the fruit that it produces in a person's life.

James 1:5: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

- There are some people who lack wisdom.
- Christians should seek after wisdom.
- It's good to seek after wisdom.
- If anyone lacks wisdom, he should ask God to give him wisdom. If he asks God for wisdom then God will give him wisdom.
- Wisdom comes from God.
- God has the ability to give us wisdom.

- God is willing to give us wisdom.
- God will give us wisdom, if we ask Him for wisdom.
- God is willing to give an abundance of wisdom to those who ask for it.
- God is willing to give wisdom to everyone who asks for it.
- God doesn't condemn those who ask Him for wisdom.
- God will surely give wisdom to those who go to Him and ask for it.
- The way to get wisdom is to go to God and ask for wisdom.

James 1:6: "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed."

- Those who ask God for wisdom must have faith that He will grant that prayer, and must not waver in that faith.
- Those who pray without faith (who "waver") are like items in the sea that are tossed around by currents and the wind. They're unstable and are unable to remain firmly rooted in one place, and can't go in the direction they would like.
- It's bad for a Christian to be tossed around. Christians should stay firmly rooted in the faith, and not tossed from one doctrine and belief to another.

James 1:7: "For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord."

- Those who pray but lack faith won't receive anything

from the Lord.

- Those who waver in their prayers won't receive anything from the Lord.
- If you want to receive something from the Lord then you must ask in faith and you must not waver. Those who ask in faith and remain firm will be given wisdom.
- It's foolish to pray without faith and then expect God to hear and answer that prayer.
- God has the power to grant our prayers.
- Prayer is important.
- There are some prayers that God hears and answers.

James 1:8: "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

- People who are double minded are unstable. They're like an item in the sea that's tossed about by the wind and the waves.
- Christians shouldn't be double minded. We should be firmly rooted in the truth.
- It's bad to be double minded.
- It's bad to be unstable.
- People who are double minded are unstable in everything they do.
- It's important to be single minded.
- It's important to be stable.
- Being double minded and full of doubt isn't a virtue or a sign of maturity. Instead it is a sign of instability.

James 1:9: "Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:"

- There are some Christians who are "of low degree" (poor).
- Those who are poor should rejoice when they're exalted.
- It's good to rejoice when you're exalted.
- There are times when Christians who are poor are exalted.

James 1:10: "But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away:"

- There are some Christians who are rich.
- Those who are rich should rejoice when they're humbled.
- The the wealth of the rich will one day pass away.
- James compared the wealthy to a flower that blooms for a time and is then gone.
- The wealth of the rich isn't as secure as people believe. It's something that exists only for a time and is then gone.
- If wealth is temporary and quickly lost then it's foolish to trust in it, or look to it for safety. This is because it's a passing thing, like a flower.
- James didn't want the rich to set their heart on their riches. Instead he wanted them to understand that their wealth wasn't going to last.
- James saw value in the rich being humbled.

James 1:11: "For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning

heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways."

- When the sun rises with burning heat, it withers both grass and flowers. The burning heat of the sun causes the glory of flowers to be lost.
- Just as the glory of flowers is destroyed by the burning heat of the sun, so the rich man will also fade away. (This may be talking about persecution, or may be talking about some sort of end times judgment.)
- The wealth of the rich is just as fleeting as the glory of flowers. Once the heat of the sun comes, the glory will be gone.
- The ways of the wealthy won't endure. They won't be able to stand the coming heat.
- Wealth is temporary (just like the glory of flowers).

James 1:12: "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

- Blessed is the man that endures temptation. Those who endure trials and keep the faith will be greatly blessed.
- There's a great blessing promised to those who endure trials and don't fall away.
- Those who endure temptation and keep the faith will be given the crown of life.
- God has promised to give the crown of life to all those who love Him.
- The reward for those who love God is the crown of life.

- The way that we demonstrate our love for Jesus is by enduring trials. Those who endure trials and keep the faith are the ones who genuinely love Him.
- It's very important to endure temptation (trials).
- God promises a reward for those who endure temptation (trials).
- The crown of life will only be given to those who endure temptation (trials).

James 1:13: "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:"

- God can't be tempted with evil. Evil isn't tempting to God in any way.
- God doesn't tempt anyone. He's not the one who tempts us.
- We must never say that God is tempting us.
- There are times when we will be tempted. However, God isn't the one who will tempt us.

James 1:14: "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed."

- Everyone is tempted by their own lusts (desires).
- Temptations come from the things that we desire. We're enticed to sin by the desires we have.
- Temptation comes from desire.
- The source of temptation is within ourselves. Our own

desires are the root of temptations.

- The reason it's possible to tempt us is because of the things that we desire.

James 1:15: "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

- The fruit of lust is sin.
- The fruit of sin is death.
- Sin always leads to death in the end.
- The Bible doesn't teach that all desire is sinful. However, desires that lead to sin are evil.
- Christians should be very careful about the things that they desire, because sinful desires lead to sin, and sin leads to death.
- Christians must not sin, for sin leads to death.

James 1:16: "Do not err, my beloved brethren."

- James affectionately referred to other Christians as "beloved".
- James calls other Christians "brethren". This is done consistently throughout the New Testament.
- Christians are beloved.
- Christians are brethren.
- Christians must not commit error.
- Christians don't have a license to sin. We must flee from error and do what's right.

- James didn't say that Christians should focus only on the doctrines of the gospel and leave all other doctrines alone. Instead he said we must be free from error. James didn't permit any level of error (in any matter).

James 1:17: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

- Every good gift comes from God.
- Every perfect gift comes from God.
- God is the one who gives us the good things that we have in this life. All of them come from God.
- The good things that we have in this life are all gifts from God.
- God has the ability to give us good things.
- There are some things in this life that are good.
- There are some things in this life that are perfect.
- Things that are good and perfect come from above (from God in Heaven).
- God is the Father of lights.
- There is no variableness in God. He never changes.
- God doesn't grow over time, nor does He change. Instead He remains exactly who He is.

James 1:18: "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."

- God is the one who gave us the word of truth.

- The reason God gave us the word of truth is because He decided to do so. It was His will to give it to us.
- The reason we have the word of truth is because of God, not because of us.
- The word of God is the truth.
- The word of truth comes from God.
- The only way we could ever get the word of truth is if God gave it to us.
- Christians are the firstfruits of God's creatures.
- The reason God gave us the word of truth is so that we could be the firstfruits of His creatures.

James 1:19: "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:"

- Christians must be swift to hear.
- Christians must be slow to speak.
- Christians must be slow to wrath.
- It's good to listen to others.
- Christians should prioritize listening over speaking.
- The Bible doesn't say we should be swift to speak. Instead it says we must be swift to hear and slow to speak.
- It's good to be slow to speak.
- It's good to be slow to wrath. James doesn't say that all wrath is evil, but instead that Christians must be careful with their wrath.

James 1:20: "For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."

- The wrath of man doesn't result in the righteousness of God.
- The wrath of man is at odds with the righteousness of God.
- Christians should pursue the righteousness of God, not the wrath of man.
- Christians should pursue righteousness.
- Righteousness comes from God, not from the wrath of man.

James 1:21: "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls."

- Christians must lay aside all filthiness.
- Every type of moral filthiness is bad, and is something Christians must distance themselves from.
- Christians must not engage in any type of filthiness.
- Christians must not engage in naughtiness. We must pursue righteousness, not wickedness.
- There's no filthiness that Christians are allowed to pursue. We must seek to be completely pure in all areas.
- James doesn't teach that we should make sure we get the main things right, and the rest doesn't matter. Instead he says we must lay apart *all* filthiness in our lives.
- Christians must seek to be holy. We must never be morally filthy.

- Christians must meekly receive the word of God.
- Christians must be meek before God. We must humble ourselves before His Word.
- The word of God is able to save our souls.
- People have souls.
- Our souls need to be saved.
- If we want to be saved then we must meekly accept the word of God.
- In order to be saved we need to meekly accept the word of God, and lay aside everything that's filthy and sinful and evil.
- The word of God is opposed to everything that's filthy and evil.

James 1:22: "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

- Christians must be doers of the Word.
- The Word of God commands Christians to do things.
- It's not enough to simply hear the word of God. We must also do what it says.
- Those who simply hear the word of God but don't obey it are deceiving themselves. They're not actually saved at all.
- There are some people who deceive themselves. They believe they're saved, but in reality they're not.
- The way you can tell the difference between a genuine Christian and a false one is by obedience. Those who

don't obey the Word of God aren't saved.

- Christians must know what the Word of God says, and we must do what it says.
- Genuine Christians are those who do what the Word of God says. (This doesn't mean we're saved by our works, but instead that genuine salvation *always* produces obedience to God. The reason the lost don't obey is because they lack salvation.)

James 1:23: "For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:"

- People who hear the Word of God but don't obey it are like people who look at themselves in a mirror. They see their true appearance but they walk away without doing anything about it.
- James compares the Word of God to a mirror that shows us who we truly are.
- When we see what the Bible has to say about us, we should take action. We shouldn't just ignore it and go on.

James 1:24: "For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was."

- It's a waste of time to look at yourself in a mirror and then do nothing to fix your appearance. Likewise, it's foolish to discover the truth in the Word of God and then do nothing to obey it.
- The Word of God should motivate us to action. We should respond to it with meekness and obedience.

- The Word of God shows us who we really are. It tells us what manner of person we are.

James 1:25: "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

- The Scriptures contain the perfect law of liberty.
- The law that is contained in the Scriptures is perfect, and is the law of liberty. It doesn't need any additions, corrections, or modifications.
- The Scriptures give us liberty. Freedom from sin is liberty, because slavery to sin is the path of death.
- People must do more than just read the Scriptures. We must also walk in their ways.
- Christians are those who continue to live by what the Scriptures have to say.
- We must not be forgetful hearers. We must remember what the Scriptures have to say.
- We must be more than just hearers. We must be doers of the Scriptures as well.
- It's good to hear the Word of God. It's even better to obey it.
- Those who hear the Scriptures and obey them, and continue to walk in its ways, will be blessed.

James 1:26: "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain."

- There are some people who seem to be religious, but who aren't actually saved.
- It's possible for a person's religion to be in vain.
- Those who don't control their tongue aren't saved. Their religion is vain.
- Christians must learn to control their tongue.
- Our words are very important, and we must be careful with them.
- Those who deceive their heart and don't walk in God's ways aren't saved. Their religion is vain.
- The Bible doesn't teach universalism. Not everyone is saved.

James 1:27: "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

- Christians should seek after pure religion.
- Christians should seek undefiled religion.
- Pure and undefiled religion is to visit the fatherless in their affliction and help them.
- Pure and undefiled religion is to visit the widows in their affliction and help them.
- Genuine religion involves helping the fatherless and the widows. It's helping the afflicted.
- Christians must seek to be unspotted from the world.
- Christians must be without spot.
- Pure and undefiled religion is to remain unspotted from

the world.

- The Biblical standard isn't "major on the majors and minor on the minors". It's to remain unspotted from all sin and error.

James 2

James 2:1: "My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons."

- James refers to other Christians as "brethren".
- The faith of Christians is in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Jesus is Lord.
- Jesus is the Messiah (the Christ).
- Jesus is the Lord of glory.
- Christians must not have "respect of persons". We must not show partiality.
- It's wrong to judge a person based on their wealth or status or race. Instead we must judge people by their actions.

James 2:2: "For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;"

- James referred to the "assembly", which was a gathering of Christians. James called this the "assembly", not "going to church" because the church is the *people* (and therefore it's not something you go to).

- There were poor people who attended the assembly of Christians.
- There were rich people who attended the assembly of Christians.
- Those who had a gold ring were the rich people.
- Those who had good clothing were the rich people.
- Those who had vile clothing were poor people.
- Some people visited the assembly of believers wearing good clothing, while the poor wore vile clothing.
- Not everyone came to the assembly of believers wearing fancy clothing.
- The rich people and the poor people attended the same assembly. There weren't separate assemblies for the rich and the poor.

James 2:3: "And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:"

- It was wrong to show favoritism to the rich over the poor, and to treat the rich differently than the poor.
- It was wrong to give the rich a better seat in the assembly than the poor. It was wrong to give the rich good seats and the poor bad seats (or none at all).
- James expected both the rich and the poor to be treated equally within the church.

James 2:4: "Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are

become judges of evil thoughts?"

- Treating the rich better than the poor is an example of showing partiality. Christians must not show partiality or respect of persons.
- It's bad to treat one person in the church better than another on the basis of their wealth.
- Those who show partiality or respect of persons have evil thoughts. Such a thing is evil.
- Christians shouldn't have evil thoughts.
- Christians shouldn't show favoritism to the rich over the poor.

James 2:5: "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?"

- Even when James is rebuking people for sin, he still refers to fellow Christians as "beloved brethren".
- God has chosen the poor.
- Since God has chosen to save the poor, we must not discriminate against them.
- God has given the poor much faith.
- God has made the poor heirs of the kingdom.
- God has promised the kingdom to those who love Him.
- Since the poor have been chosen by God, and are rich in faith, and are heirs to the kingdom of God, we must not discriminate against them. We must not discriminate against those who God loves, and God has blessed, and God values.

- God values those who are poor.
- God has the ability to give faith to those whom He chooses.
- Faith comes from God.

James 2:6: "But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?"

- James rebuked Christians for despising the poor.
- It's wrong to despise the poor.
- Since God loves the poor and has blessed them, we must not despise them.
- Christians are often oppressed by rich people. It's unusual for them to be oppressed by the poor.
- Christians are often the targets of lawsuits from rich people. It's unusual for the poor to file lawsuits.
- James rebuked Christians for showing favoritism to the rich and despising the poor, when the rich were the ones who were oppressing them and filing lawsuits against them.

James 2:7: "Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?"

- James said the rich blasphemed the name of the Lord.
- Christians were showing favoritism to the rich, in spite of the fact they were blasphemers.
- It's wrong to blaspheme the name of the Lord.
- Christians are called by the name of the Lord.

- The name of the Lord is worthy. It should be honored by Christians.
- Christians shouldn't show favoritism to people who blaspheme the name of the Lord.

James 2:8: "If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:"

- Christians must love their neighbor as themselves.
- Having respect of persons (showing partiality) is a violation of the commandment to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. (After all, we don't want to be discriminated against. Showing partiality isn't an act of love.)
- Those who love their neighbors as they love themselves do well. That's what God commands.
- The commandment "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" is the royal law.
- Christians must love their neighbors.

James 2:9: "But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors."

- Having respect of persons (showing partiality) is a sin.
- It's wrong to show partiality. It's a violation of God's law.
- Those who sin are transgressors. Transgressors are those who break the law of God and sin.

James 2:10: "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet

offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

- Those who break even one commandment are guilty of breaking the whole law.
- Christians must keep the whole law. Even breaking a single commandment is a violation of the whole law.
- God doesn't tell us to keep the big commandments and that's good enough. Instead we must keep *all* of them, for any violation of any commandment is a violation of the whole law.

James 2:11: "For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law."

- God commanded us to not commit adultery.
- God commanded us to not kill.
- Christians must not commit adultery.
- Christians must not kill.
- If a person doesn't commit adultery but does kill someone, then he's a transgressor of the law (even though he only broke one of the commandments).
- You don't have to break all of the commandments in order to become a transgressor. Instead you only have to break a single one.

James 2:12: "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty."

- Christians will be judged by the law (which James calls the law of liberty).

- When Christians speak, we must remember that our words will be judged by the law.
- When Christians act, we must remember that our actions will be judged by the law.
- Christians will be judged. Our actions matter, and we will be held accountable for them.

James 2:13: "For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment."

- Those who showed no mercy will be judged without mercy.
- Mercy rejoices against judgment.
- Christians must show mercy. We must have mercy on others.
- If we want to receive mercy from God then we must show mercy to others.
- Mercy is a good thing.

James 2:14: "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?"

- There are people who claim to have faith, but who don't actually have faith at all.
- It's not enough to simply claim to have faith. If we don't actually have faith then claiming to have faith doesn't do us any good – we're only deceiving ourselves.
- Those who have faith will also have works, because *genuine faith always produces works*. If a person lacks

works then that's proof he lacks faith as well.

- A person can't be saved by false faith, or by claiming to have faith. They can only be saved by genuine faith, which always produces works.
- There's no profit in claiming to have faith. There's only profit in actually *having* faith – and genuine faith produces works.

James 2:15: "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,"

- There may be times when Christians don't have sufficient clothing to wear.
- There may be times when Christians don't have food.
- God never promised that Christians would always have sufficient clothing.
- God never promised that Christians would always have food.
- Christians should provide clothing to fellow believers who need it.
- God expects Christians to watch out for one another and to provide for their needs.
- Christians should provide food to fellow believers who need it.

James 2:16: "And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?"

- When a person lacks clothing, he needs more than just kind words. He needs someone to provide him with clothing.
- When a person lacks food, he needs more than just kind words. He needs someone to provide him with food.
- Christians should give clothing to fellow believers who need it. They shouldn't just give them kind words and then send them on their way, destitute and suffering.
- Christians should give food to fellow believers who need it. They shouldn't just give them kind words and then send them on their way, destitute and suffering.
- Food is needful to the body. It's something people need to have in order to survive, and is a genuine need.
- Clothing is needful to the body. It's something people need to have in order to survive, and is a genuine need.
- If a Christian only gives kind words to those who are suffering, and does nothing to actually help meet their needs, then they haven't done any good at all. Their words are empty and vain.

James 2:17: "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

- Faith without works is dead.
- The reason faith without works is dead is because genuine faith will never lack works. If faith lacks works and produces nothing, then it's a false faith that doesn't save.

James 2:18: "Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have

works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."

- It's impossible to demonstrate faith if a person has no works, because works is the way a person demonstrates their faith.
- Genuine faith is demonstrated by works.
- The way we can tell whether others have genuine faith is by looking at their works. If they have no works then they have no faith either.
- Works are the proof of faith. (Works aren't the cause of salvation, but they're *always* the result of salvation.)
- The way that we can tell if our faith is genuine is by examining our life and looking for works. If we have no works then our faith is dead and vain.

James 2:19: "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble."

- It's good to believe that there's one God.
- God is real. He truly exists.
- There's one God.
- Demons also believe that there's one God.
- Demons tremble before God.
- It's not enough to simply believe that there's one God. Even demons believe that.
- Those who don't believe in God are very foolish. Even demons believe in God.

James 2:20: "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"

- Faith without works is dead. If you have no works then you have no faith either, because *genuine faith always produces works*.
- It's not enough to simply have faith that God exists, because even demons believe that.
- Those who claim to have faith, but who have no works, are believing in God in vain. Their faith is worthless, and they're no better than devils.

James 2:21: "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?"

- Abraham really existed. He was a real historical figure and not a myth.
- Abraham is the father of the Jews.
- Abraham's faith was accompanied by works. He proved his faith when he offered his son Isaac on the altar.
- Isaac was the son of Abraham.
- Abraham really did offer his son Isaac upon the altar. That wasn't a myth.
- Abraham proved his faith by his works.

James 2:22: "Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?"

- Abraham's faith produced his works. Since his faith was genuine, he had works as well.

- Abraham's faith was made perfect by works. His works were the fruit of his faith and proved that his faith truly existed.
- A faith that produces no works is meaningless, because that would mean a person's beliefs aren't influencing his actions in any way. A belief that doesn't change anything is meaningless and is worth nothing (because it produces nothing).

James 2:23: "And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God."

- Abraham believed God.
- Since Abraham believed God, he obeyed God. Since he obeyed God, his obedience was imputed to him for righteousness.
- Abraham proved his belief in God by his obedience. The reason he obeyed God was because he believed in God.
- Since Abraham's belief in God was real and produced obedience, his obedience was imputed to him for righteousness.
- Abraham was called the friend of God.
- The reason Abraham was called the friend of God is because he believed in God, and that belief resulted in obedience.

James 2:24: "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only."

- People aren't justified solely by faith (just as demons

aren't justified by believing God exists). If their faith doesn't produce works then their faith is dead, because a belief that doesn't change a person's behavior is dead and worthless.

- People who claim to have faith but who don't have works are not saved. Genuine faith always results in works, so a lack of works means there's a lack of true faith as well.
- A faith that produces no works is like a dead tree that produces no fruit. A living faith will always produce works, so a faith that doesn't produce works is dead and worthless.

James 2:25: "Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?"

- Rahab was a prostitute.
- Rahab really existed. She was a genuine historical figure, and not a myth.
- Rahab really did rescue the Israelite spies who were sent to Jericho.
- Rahab's faith was proven to be genuine by her works. She demonstrated her faith by rescuing the Israelite spies.
- Rahab's faith was a living faith because it produced works. Since her faith produced works, it wasn't dead and useless.

James 2:26: "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

- The body without the spirit is dead. Once the spirit leaves

the body, the body is dead.

- We have both a body and a spirit. Our body is alive as long as our spirit is within it.
- We are more than just a body. We have a spirit as well, which is separate from the body.
- Our spirit resides within our body while we're alive.
- Our spirit doesn't need a body in order to survive. It can exist outside of our body (which is what happens when we die).
- Faith without works is dead.

James 3

James 3:1: "My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation."

- James refers to other Christians as "brethren".
- Christians should avoid being masters over many people, because those who have authority over more people will receive greater condemnation.
- James said that Christians should try to avoid holding positions of authority over people, because doing so will lead to condemnation.
- Christians who are in positions of authority will receive greater condemnation than those who lack authority.
- God will judge people based on how much authority they had over others. (To whom much is given, much is required.)

James 3:2: "For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body."

- In many areas Christians offend everyone.
- Those who don't offend in their speech are perfect, and are able to control their whole body.
- It's very important to learn to control our words.
- Self-control is very important.
- In order to gain control over our own body, we need to learn to control our words.
- Christians need to learn to control their bodies.
- Christians need to learn to control their words.

James 3:3: "Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body."

- James said that horses are controlled by putting "bits" in their mouths. By turning their mouth, people can turn the whole horse.
- James pointed out that horses are controlled by putting something in their mouth. He did this to point out that people are controlled by their tongue. The key to self-control is learning to control our words.

James 3:4: "Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth."

- James said that ships are controlled by a helm that's

much smaller than the ship.

- James pointed out that ships are controlled by a small helm. He did this to point out that people are controlled by the tongue, which is also very small.
- James said that ships are very large.
- James said that ships are driven by fierce winds.
- Even though ships are large and are driven by fierce winds, the captain is able to direct them using a very small helm.

James 3:5: "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!"

- The tongue is very small.
- Even though the tongue is a small body part, it makes great boasts.
- The ability of the tongue to impact the world is far greater than its small size.
- James pointed out that a small fire can cause a very great disturbance. A small fire can quickly grow very large.
- James pointed out how quickly a small fire can grow out of control. He did this to point out that even though the tongue is small, it can create enormous issues that grow rapidly.

James 3:6: "And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell."

- The tongue is very dangerous.
- The tongue is a fire.
- The tongue is a world of iniquity.
- The tongue defiles the whole body.
- The tongue sets the course of nature on fire.
- The tongue is a fire that comes from hell.

James 3:7: "For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:"

- Every kind of beast is tamed and has been tamed.
- Every kind of bird is tamed and has been tamed.
- Every kind of serpent is tamed and has been tamed.
- Everything in the sea is tamed and has been tamed.
- People have been able to tame all sorts of beasts, birds, serpents, and aquatic life.

James 3:8: "But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison."

- No man can tame the tongue. (However, with God all things are possible.)
- The tongue is unruly.
- The tongue is evil.
- The tongue is full of deadly poison.
- It's possible to tame animals, but not the tongue.

James 3:9: "Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God."

- With the tongue we bless God.
- God is the Father.
- With the tongue we curse men.
- People are created after the image of God.
- People bless God and curse others with the same tongue. The tongue is used for both blessing and cursing.
- It's good to bless God.
- It's bad to curse others.

James 3:10: "Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be."

- People bless and curse with the same mouth.
- It's bad that people both bless and curse. That's not a good thing.

James 3:11: "Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?"

- Fountains either send forth sweet water or bitter water.
- Fountains don't send both sweet and bitter water at the same place. It's one or the other.
- Just as a fountain only sends out one kind of water, so people should only use one kind of speech. We should bless and not curse.

James 3:12: "Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh."

- Fig trees don't grow olives. Instead they grow figs, which reflects their nature.
- Vines don't grow figs. Instead they grow grapes, which reflects their nature.
- Fountains don't yield both salt water and fresh water. They either yield one or the other.
- Christians shouldn't speak both blessings and curses. Instead we should bless others, and not curse them.

James 3:13: "Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom."

- There are some among the church who are wise.
- There are some among the church who have knowledge.
- Not everyone is wise.
- Not everyone has knowledge.
- Those who are wise should demonstrate their wisdom through a good lifestyle.
- Those who are wise should demonstrate their wisdom through good works.
- Those who are wise should demonstrate their wisdom through meekness.
- Those who are wise should demonstrate their wisdom

through their actions.

- It's good to be wise.
- It's good to have knowledge.
- It's good to be meek.
- It's good to pursue good works.
- It's good to seek to live a righteous life.

James 3:14: "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth."

- It's bad to be bitter.
- It's bad to envy others.
- It's bad to have strife.
- The heart may be a place of bitterness.
- The heart may be a place of envy.
- The heart may be a place of strife.
- Those who are bitter, or envious, or full of strife, shouldn't glory in themselves.
- It's bad to glory in ourselves and boast in ourselves.
- It's bad to lie.
- We must not lie about the truth.

James 3:15: "This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish."

- Wisdom that leads to bitterness, or envy, or strife, isn't from God.

- Wisdom that leads to bitterness, or envy, or strife, is earthly and not heavenly.
- Wisdom that leads to bitterness, or envy, or strife, is sensual and not holy.
- Wisdom that leads to bitterness, or envy, or strife, is devilish and not godly.
- Not all wisdom is good.
- Wisdom that bears bad fruits is devilish and evil.
- Godly wisdom will bear godly fruit.
- Not all wisdom comes from God. There's evil wisdom that bears evil fruit.

James 3:16: "For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work."

- If there's envy, there's also confusion.
- If there's envy, there's also other evil as well.
- Envy leads to other sins.
- If there's strife, there's also confusion.
- If there's strife, there's also other evil as well.
- Strife leads to other sins.
- Strife is bad.
- Envy is bad.
- Confusion is bad.
- Evil works are bad.
- Christians shouldn't envy one another.

- Christians shouldn't have strife in their hearts.
- Confusion is bad thing, not a good thing. It's a sign of evil.

James 3:17: "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."

- The wisdom that comes from above is pure.
- The wisdom that comes from above is peaceable.
- The wisdom that comes from above is gentle.
- The wisdom that comes from above is easy to be reasoned with.
- The wisdom that comes from above is full of mercy.
- The wisdom that comes from above is full of good fruit.
- The wisdom that comes from above is without partiality.
- The wisdom that comes from above is without hypocrisy.
- Purity is good.
- Christians should seek to be pure in the sight of God.
- Being peaceable is good.
- Christians should seek to be at peace with one another.
- Gentleness is good.
- Christians should be gentle.
- It's good to be easy to reason with.
- Mercy is good.
- Christians should be merciful.
- It's good to bear good fruit.

- Christians should seek to bear good fruit.
- Showing partiality is bad.
- Christians shouldn't show partiality.
- Hypocrisy is bad.
- Christians shouldn't be hypocrites.
- The wisdom that comes from above bears good fruit, and leads to godliness and righteousness.

James 3:18: "And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."

- The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace.
- The fruit of righteousness is sown by those who make peace.
- Christians should sow peace.
- Christians should make peace with others.
- Christians should be characterized by peace.
- There are fruits of righteousness.

James 4

James 4:1: "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?"

- The source of conflict in the church is lust. People fight with each other to obtain the things they desire.
- The root of conflict is desire.

James 4:2: "Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not."

- People lusted after things but didn't get them.
- People desired things weren't able to obtain them.
- People fought one another to get things but they weren't able to get them.
- People killed one another to get things but they still weren't able to get what they wanted.
- Lusting after something, and desiring it, doesn't get you the thing you desired.
- The reason people didn't have things was because they didn't ask for them.
- If we want something then the path to getting it is to ask God, not to fight with one another.

James 4:3: "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."

- People asked for things, but they didn't receive them.
- The reason people didn't receive the things they asked for was because they asked amiss.
- Those who ask for things based on sinful desires shouldn't expect to get them.
- Those who ask for worldly and sinful things shouldn't expect to get them.

James 4:4: "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

- James called the Christians he was writing to adulterers and adulteresses. The reason he did that was because they had made friends with the world, which was a form of spiritual adultery.
- Those who make friends with the world are making an enemy of God.
- It's bad for Christians to make friends with the world.
- Those who are friends with the world are the enemy of God.
- The church shouldn't make friends with the world.
- Those who make friends with the world are adulterers and adulteresses in the sight of God.
- The world is opposed to God.
- God is opposed to the world.
- If we desire worldly things then we're making ourselves the enemies of God.
- One of the root causes of conflict in the church is the desire for worldly things.

James 4:5: "Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?"

- The Scriptures don't speak in vain. The Bible means what it says. Its words are true and carry weight.
- Christians should know the Scriptures.

- Christians should believe the Scriptures.
- Christians should obey the Scriptures.
- We have a spirit that dwells in us.
- Our spirit is full of lust.
- Our spirit is full of envy.
- There's a spirit within us that's full of lust and envy. It's a dangerous spirit that seeks to lead us to sin, and that causes conflict in the church.
- James, when speaking to Christians, told them that their spirit was full of wicked and sinful desires.

James 4:6: "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."

- God gives us more grace.
- We have a spirit within us that's full of sinful desires. However, God gives us grace. His grace enables us to overcome those desires and do what's right.
- In order to overcome our sinful desires we need the grace of God. The path to overcoming sin is grace.
- The Bible doesn't say that we can overcome sin all on our own. Instead it says that we need the grace of God.
- God resists the proud.
- God hates pride.
- Christians shouldn't be proud.
- God gives grace to the humble.
- God loves humility.

- Christians should be humble.

James 4:7: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

- Christians must submit themselves to God.
- It's good to submit to God. That's what God requires.
- Christians must resist the devil.
- The devil is dangerous.
- The devil will attack us.
- The key to overcoming the attacks of the devil is to resist him.
- If we resist the devil then he will flee from us.

James 4:8: "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."

- Christians must seek to draw near to God.
- If we draw near to God then He will draw near to us.
- It's good to draw near to God.
- It's possible to draw near to God.
- Christians must cease from sin. We must cleanse our hands from sin.
- Christians must purify their hearts.
- Our hearts need to be purified.
- It's bad to sin.

- It's bad to have an unclean heart.
- It's possible to purify our heart.
- Christians must not be double minded. Instead we must do what's right and turn away from sin.
- The way to draw near to God is to cleanse our hands of sin and do what's right. We need to be holy in order to draw near to a holy God.

James 4:9: "Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness."

- Christians should afflict themselves. (This seems to be a reference to mourning over sin.)
- Christians should mourn and weep. (This seems to be a reference to mourning over sin.)
- Christians should weep over their sin.
- Christians shouldn't laugh and rejoice when their life is full of sin. Instead we should mourn over our sin and weep over it. Our sin should lead to a spirit of heaviness.
- Our sin should bother us. It should lead to mourning and tears.

James 4:10: "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

- Christians must humble themselves in the sight of God.
- It's good to humble ourselves in the sight of God.
- When there's sin in our life, we should mourn and weep over it. We should humble ourselves before God and seek

His grace.

- God will lift up those who humble themselves in His sight.
- If we want God to lift us up then we must first humble ourselves before Him.

James 4:11: "Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge."

- Christians must not speak evil of one another. (This is different from rebuking sin. For example, this letter is full of spiritual rebukes but it's not evil.)
- Those who speak evil of others are speaking evil of the law. (However, rebuking people for sin isn't evil.)
- Those who judge one another are judging the law. (This seems to be in the context of speaking evil against someone, such as slandering them or lying about them.)
- Those who speak evil of others aren't a doer of the law. Instead they're a judge of the law.
- God commands us to obey His law, not judge it.

James 4:12: "There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?"

- There's only one lawgiver (God).
- The God who gave us His law is able to save us.
- The God who gave us His law is able to destroy us.
- Christians don't have the right to judge one another.

(However, this is different from rebuking people for sin. That's not seen as speaking evil of others or judging them.)

James 4:13: "Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:"

- James rebukes people for boasting about the things they're going to accomplish in the upcoming year.

James 4:14: "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

- It's foolish to boast about the future because no one knows what the future will hold.
- Christians shouldn't boast about the future.
- Christians shouldn't boast about the things they plan to accomplish in the future.
- Our life is a vapor.
- Our life lasts for a short time and then ends.
- It's foolish to boast about the future because we have no idea how long our life will last.

James 4:15: "For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that."

- Christians should say that if it's the will of God, we will live and accomplish whatever we're planning on doing.

- Whether we accomplish something is up to the will of God. We will only accomplish it if it's His will.
- We can't accomplish anything that God doesn't want us to accomplish. If He doesn't bless us and give us life then it won't happen.
- Whether we continue to live is up to the will of God. Our life will only continue if it's His will for it to continue.
- Our lifespan is determined by God.
- Our accomplishments are determined by God.
- If we continue to live, we must give the credit to God.
- If we accomplish anything, we must give the credit to God.

James 4:16: "But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil."

- It's evil to boast about the future, and to rejoice in things that we haven't accomplished yet.
- It's evil to act as if we're in control and are responsible for our accomplishments. It's evil to act as if our future is in our hands, and we're the captains of our fate.

James 4:17: "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

- If a person knows to do good but doesn't do it, then that person is committing a sin.
- It's a sin to know to do good but fail to do it.
- Sometimes sin isn't doing something evil. Sometimes the

sin is failing to do something good.

James 5

James 5:1: "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you."

- James told those who were rich to weep and howl, because they were going to face great suffering.
- The day is coming when the rich will suffer. In that day their riches won't save them.
- There's great misery in store for the wealthy. (James seems to be referring to people who obtained their wealth through fraud and oppression.)

James 5:2: "Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten."

- The riches of the wealthy are corrupted.
- The garments of the wealthy have been eaten by moths.
- This passage seems to be a prophecy. The day is coming when the wealth of the rich won't save them. Their wealth will be corrupted and their garments will be eaten, and they will have nothing.

James 5:3: "Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days."

- The gold of the wealthy is morally corrupt.

- The silver of the wealthy is morally corrupt.
- The corruption of the riches of the wealthy will be a witness against them.
- The corruption of the riches of the wealthy will eat their flesh as if it were fire.
- God cares about where the riches of the wealthy came from. He is against ill-gotten wealth.
- The day is coming when the ill-gotten riches of the wealthy will testify against them.
- This verse seems to be saying that the ill-gotten riches of the wealthy will devour them in some way.
- The rich may think that their ill-gotten riches are a great blessing, but in reality they're a curse that will destroy them.
- The rich have heaped treasure together for the last days. They're amassing wealth because the end-times are coming.
- In the end-times, the rich won't be saved by the wealth they gathered to protect them.
- James doesn't show favoritism to the rich. Instead he condemns them for their wickedness and warns them that judgment is coming upon them.

James 5:4: "Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth."

- The rich hired laborers to reap their fields.

- The rich owned fields.
- The rich defrauded the laborers who reaped their fields.
- The laborers who were defrauded cried out to God.
- The ill-gotten wealth of the rich, which they obtained by defrauding the people who worked for them, cries out to God.
- God hates it when laborers are defrauded of their wages.
- It's bad to defraud people.
- God will punish those who defraud laborers.
- God hears the cries of those who are unjustly defrauded.
- There's a day of judgment coming for those who have defrauded others.
- The cries of the defrauded laborers have entered into the ears of the "Lord of sabaoth" (the Lord of the hosts of heaven).

James 5:5: "Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter."

- The rich have used their ill-gotten wealth to live in pleasure on the earth.
- The rich have used their ill-gotten wealth to live malicious and unjust lives.
- The rich have used their ill-gotten wealth to nourish their hearts "as in a day of slaughter" (a day when animals are killed and a feast is held).
- The rich live extravagant, unjust, and malicious lives,

using the wealth that they obtained through fraud. They live in great pleasure while denying their laborers the money they need to feed themselves and their families.

- God has noticed the wicked lives of the wealthy, and He knows the evil things they did to obtain their wealth. The day is coming when God will hold them accountable for it.

James 5:6: "Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you."

- The rich have condemned those who are just.
- The rich have murdered those who are just.
- Those who are just haven't resisted the rich. They haven't fought back against them. (This seems to be referring to rising up and taking matters into their own hands, with some sort of mob violence or personal vengeance.)
- The Bible forbids mob violence and personal vengeance, even in cases of robbery and murder. God has given the responsibility for criminal justice in the hands of the government, and doesn't allow vigilante justice.

James 5:7: "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain."

- James tells Christians to be patient and wait for the coming of the Lord.
- When the Lord comes, He will put things right. He will bring to justice the rich, who have done great evil.

- James doesn't tell Christians to take matters into their own hands. Instead he tells them to wait until the Lord comes.
- Christians must be patient.
- Christians must patiently wait for the justice that the Lord will bring when He comes.
- A day of justice is coming.
- Even though the just are being killed, James tells Christians to wait for the Lord instead of taking matters into their own hands.
- Farmers wait for their crops to yield fruit. They have patience while their crops are going.
- Farmers wait for the early rain to come.
- Farmers wait for the latter rain to come.
- Just as farmers wait for their crops to grow, so Christians must wait for the Lord to return.
- Christians should be waiting for the Lord to return. They should be watching and waiting with hope and expectation, just as farmers wait for their crops to grow and yield fruit.

James 5:8: "Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."

- Christians must be patient, for the Lord is coming.
- Christians must establish their hearts, for the Lord is coming.
- Christians must patiently wait for the Lord to return.

- The coming of the Lord draws near.

James 5:9: "Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door."

- Christians must not hold grudges against one another.
- Christians who hold grudges against others will one day be condemned.
- There are some Christians who will one day be condemned for what they've done.
- God hates it when Christians hold grudges.
- God is the judge.
- The judge is standing before the door.
- Christians should be conscious of the fact that the Lord is coming, and the day of His return is drawing nearer. We should be careful how we live our lives so that we aren't condemned when He returns.

James 5:10: "Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience."

- The prophets of the Old Testament spoke in the name of the Lord.
- The prophets of the Old Testament were faithful.
- The prophets of the Old Testament suffered affliction.
- The prophets of the Old Testament were patient.
- The prophets of the Old Testament serve as examples for us. Even though they spoke in the name of the Lord, they

were afflicted. They suffered with patience, and serve as an example to us of being patient through suffering and remaining faithful through affliction.

James 5:11: "Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy."

- Those who endure affliction and patiently endure suffering are happy. The day is coming when they won't regret their faithfulness.
- It's good to patiently endure affliction.
- There's joy in store for those who patiently endure affliction.
- Job was patient.
- Job was a real person who actually existed. He's not a myth
- The Lord is full of pity toward those who are suffering.
- The Lord is full of tender mercy.
- In the end the Lord had pity toward Job, and showed him tender mercy.
- Job serves as an example for us of someone who endured suffering, and who God had mercy on in the end.

James 5:12: "But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation."

- Christians must not swear oaths.

- Instead of swearing oaths, we must let our yes be yes and our no be no. We must not go beyond that.
- Those who go beyond a simple "yes" or "no" and swear oaths will fall into condemnation.
- Christians must not swear by heaven.
- Christians must not swear by earth.
- Christians must not swear by anything.
- Christians must keep their word. We must let our "yes" be yes and are "no" be no. We must do what we say we will do.
- It's bad to swear an oath.

James 5:13: "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms."

- Those who are afflicted should pray. Our response to affliction should be prayer.
- There are times when we will be afflicted.
- It's good to pray. Prayer is a meaningful thing to do.
- Those who are merry should sing psalms.
- Christians should sing the psalms that are in the Bible.
- The psalms were meant to be sung.
- There are times when we will be merry.

James 5:14: "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:"

- If anyone in the church is sick, he should call for the elders of the church. The elders will pray over him and anoint him with oil, and he will surely be healed. (These instructions seem to date from a time when the gift of healing was still present, since there was no doubt the person would surely be cured of his illness.)

James 5:15: "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

- James said that the prayer would absolutely bring healing, and the Lord would surely raise up the sick person. This is more evidence that these instructions were intended for a time when the gift of healing was still present.
- We need forgiveness for our sins.
- James said that the prayer of healing, which would always heal those who were sick, also forgave sins.

James 5:16: "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

- Christians should confess their faults to one another.
- Christians should pray for one another so that we may be healed. (This also seems to be a reference to the miraculous gift of healing, since James expects prayer to always result in healing.)
- The righteous should pray.
- The righteous should pray fervently.

- The fervent prayers of the righteous are very effective.
- If we want our prayers to be effective then we need to be righteous, and we need to pray fervently.

James 5:17: "Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months."

- Elijah was like us. He had passions just as we do.
- Elijah earnestly prayed that it might not rain.
- Elijah was a real person who actually existed. He's not a myth.
- When Elijah prayed that it might not rain, it didn't rain for 3 years and 6 months.
- James used Elijah as an example that the fervent prayers of a righteous man avail much. Elijah is an example of the power of prayer, not power of Elijah.

James 5:18: "And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit."

- When Elijah prayed again, the heaven gave rain.
- When the rain came again after Elijah prayed, the earth brought forth its fruit.
- Elijah is an example of the power of prayer.

James 5:19: "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;"

- There may be times when a Christians errs from the truth.
- When a Christian errs from the truth, we should try to convert him and bring him back to the truth.
- It's bad for a Christian to depart from the truth.
- It's important to bring Christians back to the truth.
- Christians need to remain firmly grounded in the truth. We must not depart from it.
- James believed that departing from the truth was a very serious thing.

James 5:20: "Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."

- Those who err from the truth are sinning.
- Those who err from the truth are putting their soul to death in some way. The end result of error is death.
- Those who save sinners are saving a soul from death.
- Those who convert Christians who have fallen into error are saving a soul from death.
- Those who save sinners are hiding a multitude of sins.
- Those who convert Christians who have fallen into error are hiding a multitude of sins.
- It's good to save sinners.
- It's good to bring Christians back to the truth.