

The Epistle of James

James 1:2-27

- Questions

1. What attitude should a Christian have toward trials (1:2) and what is gained by trials (1:3-4)?
2. What should one do who lacks wisdom and why (1:5)?
3. What condition for acceptable prayer does James mention (1:6)?
4. Who will not receive from the Lord and why (1:6-8)?
5. How does James describe the brother of “low degree” (KJV) and the rich man (1:9-11)?
6. Who is blessed and why (1:12)?
7. Who does not tempt man (1:13)?
8. What is the process that leads from temptation to death (1:14-15)?
9. What does “the Father of lights” give and what is his nature (1:16-17)?
10. How does one become the first-fruits of God’s creation (1:18)?
11. What is a Christian to be “swift” to do and “slow” to do (1:19) and why (1:20)?
12. What is the Christian to put away and what is he to receive (1:21)?
13. What does James say about hearing and doing God’s word (1:22-25)?
14. What care is to be taken with the tongue by one who is religious (1:26) and what two things will one do with a pure and undefiled religion (1:27)?

- Digging Deeper

1. What is “patience” (KJV) in James 1:3-4?
2. What is “wisdom” (1:5; see also 3:13-18)?
3. What does Jesus say about prayer in Matthew 21:21-22?
4. What difference, if any, is there in the word “temptation” (KJV) found in James 1:2, 12 and the word “temptation” (KJV) found in James 1:13-14? (Compare with the NASV and ESV translations.) How do you reconcile the fact that God “tempted” (KJV) Abraham (Gen. 22:1) with James’ statement that God does not “tempt” (KJV) man (Jas. 1:13)?
5. What is “meekness” (KJV) in James 1:21?
6. How is God’s word like a “mirror” (1:24-25; see Heb. 4:12-13)?

- Applications for Today

1. Christians can have joy in trials because they know they will be perfected by them and be rewarded one day for their steadfastness (1:2; Mt. 5:12; Rom. 5:3-4; 1 Pet. 1:6-9; 4:12-13).
2. Patience (endurance) has its “perfect work” – salvation (1:4; 5:10-11; Lk. 21:19; Rom. 2:7).
3. God is liberal in his giving and good in his giving (1:5, 17; 2 Cor. 9:8-15).
4. Both poverty and riches can test a person (1:9-10; Prov. 30:7-9; 1 Tim. 6:9-10, 17-19)
5. The Christian’s reward is a “crown of life” (1:12; 2 Tim. 4:8; 1 Pet. 5:4; Rev. 2:10).
6. We should not blame God for temptation (1:13; Gen. 3:12-13)?
7. Sin brings spiritual death (1:15; 5:20; Rom. 6:16, 23; 7:5).
8. We are brought forth (begotten, born again) by God’s word when we obey it and are baptized (1:18; Jn. 3:5; Eph. 5:26; Tit. 3:5; 1 Pet. 1:22-23).
9. Guard your tongue and be “slow to speak” (1:19, 26; Prov. 10:19; 17:27-28).
10. God’s word saves souls (1:21; Lk. 8:12; Ac. 11:14; Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:18; 15:2).
11. Hearing and doing God’s word, not just hearing, is what God wants (1:22-25; Mt. 7:24-26; Lk. 6:46).
12. Christians are under the Law of Christ, the perfect law of liberty (1:25; 1 Cor. 9:21; Gal. 6:2).
13. Christians, individually, should take care of orphans and widows as they have opportunity (1:27; Gal. 2:9; 6:10). Christians are to keep themselves unspotted from the world of sin as they go through life (1:27; 1 Jn. 2:15-17).