

Don't forget about our radio program. The broadcast is every Sunday morning from 8:00-8:45 on the HUM. The station can be found at 98.5 in Columbus and 98.3 in Seymour.

The Outline is Online

Don't forget that the outline is also available online. Download a copy now.

Blog

What's your most helpful verse or phrase from James 1.

Do You Lack Wisdom?

By Pat Higgins

The book of James stresses the trial of a man's faith and a positive way of maintaining stability. The writer tells us that at times we will be surrounded or encompassed about with trials and temptations, but even then we should regard it a wholly joyful occasion (Jas. 1:2). How can a man possibly rejoice while undergoing trials and persecution? He can rejoice in that the testing of his faith can prove its genuineness and, therefore, bring about staying power or endurance. Anyone who has come through a period of temptation victorious over trials can rejoice in that accomplishment. More important, upon request, God will grant a man the wisdom to cope with and endure each temporary trial; and he rejoices, knowing that perseverance will be rewarded by the crown of life (1:5, 12). However, this wisdom is granted only to him who "asks in faith, nothing wavering" (1:6), or "without any doubting" (NAS). One whose faith is "wavering" is an individual who is "divided against

one's-self," who has "vacillation of mind." James provides a most vivid picture of such wavering, "For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed." Such a wave has no stability and is driven to and fro at the mercy of the wind. A man with internal doubt/ wavering likewise, has no stability or confidence in God to perform that which He promised; therefore, he cannot approach God in prayer with any degree of assurance (1:7). He is tossed to and fro by external pressures, indecisive and unsure of God's care.

One of two things is true when a man's faith wavers: (1) He doubts his own ability to cope, and/or (2) He doubts God's faithfulness and ability to strengthen him. On either count he errs. The Apostle Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13). To cope with the trials of daily living with the stability of wisdom, we see two things are required in the afore-

mentioned verse: (1) The confidence of man, and (2) The strengthening faithfulness of God.

A man may say, "I know God will do His part, but I just can't handle my part." Is this not doubting God? Because He said if a man lack wisdom to endure divers temptations, he should pray for wisdom and "it shall be given him" (1:2-5). God says a man can handle it, because He will grant him the wisdom to do so. Who would dare to deny the Almighty God the power to do so. He is "... able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Eph. 3:20). Wisdom is simply the practical use of knowledge, and the Lord has promised to give it to those who ask (keep on asking, continually turning to God for guidance) in faith. Should this not be cause for rejoicing? Do you lack wisdom? Ask of God. . . in faith. . . nothing wavering... and it shall be given.

Truth Magazine XXII: 44, p. 710 - November 9, 1978

Practical Chapters in the Bible

James 1

Three Points to Consider

1. **Prepare** Your Mind
2. **Participate** with others
3. Reach for **Perfection**

Prepare Your Mind

We must change the way we view trials. James tells us to consider it a _____ when we fall into various trials. (verse 2) He doesn't say to be joyful for the trial. He says to be joyful in the trial. We are to live joyfully _____ the trial.

1 Peter 1:6-9 *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith — the salvation of your souls.*

We are able to be joyful during trials because we know the _____. We know there is a reward reserved in heaven for us. We also know that we will receive the salvation of our souls.

James 1:5-8 *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

We must prepare our minds by asking God for _____. When we ask God for wisdom, we must ask in faith with no doubting.

James 1:13-15 *Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.*

We must prepare our minds by understanding the source of _____. Temptations do not come from God. Temptations result in us being drawn away by our own desires and enticed.

James 1:16-18 *Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. 18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.*

We must prepare our minds by understanding the _____ of all blessings. Every good gift and every perfect gift comes from God.

We must prepare our minds by understanding God's _____. God is consistent because he acts from his character which is unchanging.

Participate

James 1:19-20 *So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; 20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*

Once we get our minds right, it's time to start living right. As God's people we are to be swift to hear, slow to speak and slow to wrath.

Prov 10:19 *In the multitude of words sin is _____ lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise.*

Prov 17:27-28 *He who has knowledge spares his words, And a man of understanding is of a calm spirit. 28 Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.*

A man of knowledge and understanding _____ his words and has a _____ spirit.

Prov 14:29 *He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, But he who is impulsive exalts folly.*

James 1:21 *Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.*

We are to lay aside _____ evil and _____ with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save our souls.

Remember what Paul wrote in Romans 12, "Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good."

James 1:22-25 *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.*

Christians are people of _____!

One who is a hearer of the word:

1. _____ **himself**. He takes the time to look in the mirror. He reads the Bible. He listens to sermons. He goes to Bible study.
2. **Goes away**. He goes out into the world. Christians were intended to interact with others. Jesus says we are the light of the world. We are the salt of the earth.
3. **Forgets what kind man he was**. He _____ what he observed. He observes his faults, he just doesn't do anything about them. He knows he is not living

right, but it hurts too much to think about it. He knows he shouldn't curse, but he does anyway. He knows he should serve others, but he never finds the time.

4. _____ **himself**. Over time he convinces himself that he is a doer of the word. Every call to action applies to the guy on the next bench. The preacher is always stepping on someone else's toes.

One who is a doer of the word:

1. **Looks into the perfect law of liberty**. He has the right mirror! He is not looking into one of those mirrors at a carnival that doesn't give you an accurate representation of your appearance. This is much more than a casual look at the law. It is a look _____ the law.
2. **Continues in it**. He remains in the perfect law of liberty. He really never leaves the mirror. He is not one who only looks into the perfect law of liberty on Sundays only.
3. **Does not forget**. He knows what he is supposed to do and he does it.
4. **Will be blessed**. God's blessings are reserved for _____ not shirkers. He is light people can count on.

The perfect law actually helps transform us.

James 1:26-27 *If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. 27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.*

There are a lot of people who think they are religious, but they don't act the way God wants them to. They don't control their tongues.
This man's religion is _____.

Matt 7:21-23 *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"*

Doing the right things is not the extent of God's expectation. He also must stop doing certain things. He must not practice lawlessness. He must not sin with his tongue.

Pure and undefiled religion is to:

1. _____ orphans and widows in their time of trouble.
2. Keep oneself unspotted from the world.

Reach for Perfection

James 1:2-5 *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*

The goal of preparing and participating is to become _____.