

James



THE PERFECT MAN

The Message

- The book of James is a collection of James' teachings on what it means to be the "perfect" man
- His collection of wisdom is heavily influenced by:
 - The wisdom teachings of Christ in the Sermon on the Mount
 - The wisdom teachings of Solomon in the book of Proverbs

The Message

- The perfect Christian is characterized by wisdom
- God is the source of wisdom
 - God trains us to be wise through trials
 - God teaches wisdom in His Word
- Key verse:
 - James 1:4; And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.



James 1

*“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:
Greetings.”*

- James/Jacob the brother of Jesus
- Initially, did not believe (Mark 3:31-35; Jn. 7:1-5)
- Jesus appeared to him after the resurrection (1Cor. 15:7)
- Elder in the church of Jerusalem (Acts 15)

James 1

“² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

- *Trials are tailored by God*
- *Trials are blessings from God*
- *God uses trials to “perfect” us*

James 1

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

- **Wisdom**- the ability to use knowledge correctly and effectively in your life; knowing what God desires for your life and living according to God’s will

James 1

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- The wise man is perfect and complete (Matt. 6:30-33)
- The foolish man lacks faith and a firm foundation (Matt. 7:24-27)

James 1

⁹ Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, ¹⁰ and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. ¹¹ For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

- James gives encouragement to the poor and a warning to the rich
- The poor man has gained heavenly riches through this trials
- The rich man is warned earthly treasures do not last



James 1

¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

- The wise man is rewarded with treasure in heaven
- Matt. 6:19-21

James 1

¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

- God is the source of training not temptation
- Sinful actions are a result of sinful desires not God given circumstances

James 1

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

- God gives good and perfect gifts consistent with his perfect unchanging character
- The word of truth is God's most perfect gift