

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

“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.”

- 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



THE PERFECT MAN

PART 2



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. 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.

Addition through subtraction (1:9-12)

- You cannot be spiritual mature and love money (Luke 16:13-15)
- God uses financial troubles to train his children both rich and poor (1:9)
- The poor rejoices that God has made him humble and taught him to trust in God!
- The rich man rejoices when he faces financial trials knowing God is at work teaching him humility
- God warns the rich man not to trust in riches because they won't last (1:11)
- God blesses the steadfast (1:12; 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.



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.

You got what you asked for (1:13-18)

- Remember, you asked God for wisdom (1:5)
 - ...to be made perfect and complete (1:4)
 - ...that's why you are currently having your faith tested (1:3)
- Sinful actions are a result of sinful desires not God given circumstances (1:13-15)
- Your trials are good gifts from a good God (1:16-17)

You got what you asked for (1:13-18)

- God's word is a perfect gift from a generous God (1:18)
 - It is the perfect/complete source of wisdom (Jn. 17:15-19)
 - It has the ability to protect us (Jn. 17:17)
 - It has the ability to perfect us (2Tim. 3:16-17)



James 1:19-27

¹⁹ Know this my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.



James 1:19-27

²² 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 who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.



James 1:19-27

²⁶ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Easier said than done (1:19-27)

- You want to be wise, perfect and mature? (1:27)
 - Simply do what the Word of God says! (1:22)
- What does the Word of God tell us to do?
 - Bridle the tongue (1:26)
 - Visit the orphans and widows (1:27)
 - Keep yourself pure (1:27)



Easier said than done (1:19-27)

- Be quick to hear, slow to speak (1:19)
- Be slow to anger (1:19-20)
- Put away all filthiness and wickedness (1:21)
- Receive the word with meekness (1:21)
 - Do what it says! (1:22)