

Chapter 1

James

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

2My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; **3**Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. **4**But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. **(Joy should result when a Christian faces trials, because it's an opportunity to become a stronger Christian. They should continue living the Christian lifestyle during the trial, and once it's over, they gain the ability to defeat the next trial and become a more mature Christian in all areas. Not giving up living the Christian lifestyle during trials (having patience) is a way to have assurance of salvation. One of the Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23 - character traits that define a Christian) is patience or longsuffering.)**

5If 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. **(God also provides the answers and solutions to defeating trials. He may give a Christian thoughts to get a different job, stop spending time with people who are bad influences, make smarter decisions with their finances, and stop dating the type of people who drain their happiness, etc.)** **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. **7**For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. **8**A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways. **(When a Christian asks God to help them make right decisions, they should believe He'll do it. When they let God be in control of every area of their life by living a lifestyle similar to the one explained in chapter 39 of the pdf file book featured at this website – www.areasureyouaresaved.com and trust Him to lead them in the right directions, they will be stable in all their ways.**

9Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted: **10**But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away. **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. **(Riches and accomplishments fail in comparison to having your sins forgiven and a future home in heaven. The only thing worth boasting about is Jesus' death on the cross for our sins that made these things possible. (Galatians 6:14))**

12Blessed *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. **(A Christian receives future recognition in heaven when they don't sin when tempted. When they do this, they show their love for the Lord.)**

13Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: **14**But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. **15**Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. **(If, for example, someone would like to partake in sexual activity, even though they're not married, the devil puts them in situations where they can do this. If they give in to this temptation, they sin. If they never become a Christian, this and other sin lead to spiritual death in hell. On the other hand, a Christian can be tempted in the same manner, but if they give in to the temptation, they should be upset with themselves for failing the Lord and try their best not to do it again. If a professing Christian**

doesn't have this heart desire and continues to sin at will, they prove they aren't really a Christian.) **16**Do not err, my beloved brethren. **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. **18**Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. **(In contrast to the devil in the previous note, God is responsible for good, the way to heaven, and values us above all creations.)**

19Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: **20**For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. **(When someone speaks or acts negatively toward a Christian, they shouldn't become defensive and lash out. This isn't the righteous behavior God demands. When a Christian is confronted in such ways, they should calmly listen, calmly and softly respond if needed which makes the other person less angry (Proverbs 15:1), and/or apologize.)** **21**Wherefore lay apart all filthiness **(See chapter 18 of the pdf file book featured at this website – www.areasureyouaresaved.com for a list of sins.)** and superfluity of naughtiness, **(causing harm to someone for no reason)** and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. **(Instead of partaking in a life of sin, everyone should humbly and graciously receive the Bible's soul saving message.)** **22**But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. **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: **24**For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. **(Someone can study and be taught how to live the way the Bible instructs, but if they don't follow those instructions, it's useless.)** **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. **(However, when a Christian is in situations where they can either sin or follow the Bible's instructions, and they remember what the Bible says to do in those situations and follows through, they will be blessed.)**

26If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion *is* vain. **(Instead of arguing and returning rudeness, a Christian should calmly listen and gently respond if necessary.)** **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. **(True Christianity is visiting and helping widows and orphans when they're in distress and avoiding being unspotted from the world by living a lifestyle similar to the one explained in chapter 39 of the pdf file book featured at this website – www.areasureyouaresaved.com)**

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Chapter 2

James

1My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with respect of persons. **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; **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: **4**Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? **(Giving special treatment to one person over the other and looking down on them is sinful. (James 2:9) It's especially wrong to give special treatment to a rich person, in hopes of a future financial favor, instead of equal treatment of a poor person who isn't able to return a financial favor.)** **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? **6**But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? **7**Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called? **(God favors someone who is rich in faith and loves Him (a Christian who is defined by trusting Jesus' work on the cross to erase their sins and trusting that all circumstances work together for their good (Romans 8:28) and their love of God (see chapter 14 of the pdf file book featured at this website – www.areasureyouaresaved.com) instead of someone who displays the characteristics in James 2:6-7.)**

8If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: **(If you come in contact with someone who, for example, is trying to understand something in the Bible, needs advice as to how to get through the trial they are having, is hungry, in need of shelter (However, if a stranger comes to your door and wants to move in, it would be good advice to take them to a homeless shelter.), clothing, or money (If someone needs a lot of money, you should ask the church that you support or have supported financially or a church in your area to help with the cost. The apostle Paul collected offerings from churches for expensive needs.), you should help meet those needs (Also, tell God that you are doing it for the Lord Jesus and are thankful for the opportunity. (Colossians 3:17), because you are likely blessed with knowledge and resources such as those. The Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25–37 gives the perfect example of this. The Samaritan in this parable did all he could to take care of the man that fell among thieves and was left half dead. Also, for example, when you're hungry, you eat, and before you leave your home, you dress and put on shoes. So, in the same way you would do these things for yourself, you should help others who are hungry and can't afford to eat, for example.)** **9**But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. **(See the first note in this chapter.)** **10**For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all. **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. **(Breaking only one of God's laws is enough to be guilty and sentenced to hell, and we're all guilty. (Romans 3:23))** **12**So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. **(A Christian should avoid sinning in their speech and actions. For a list of sins to avoid, see chapter 18 of the pdf file book featured at this website – www.areasureyouaresaved.com)** **13**For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment. **(A Christian should accept people's apologies and not hold grudges.)**

14What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? **15**If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, **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? **17**Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. **(Helping others when needs appear (good works) should happen if someone has become a Christian.)**

18Yea, 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. **19**Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. **20**But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? **(Someone can believe in God or believe that Jesus came to earth to be the Savior (Mark 1:23-26), but if they never do good works after believing (with the exception of those who get saved but don't live long after that or people who are in bad health and can't get out and do much, etc.), they weren't really a Christian.)** **21**Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? **22**Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? **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. **24**Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. **25**Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent *them* out another way? **26**For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. **(Performing good works doesn't grant someone salvation, but if they do them after praying or making a decision to become a Christian, they receive one way of having assurance of their salvation.)**

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Chapter 3

James

1My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. **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. **(A Christian who has notoriously failed at having good behavior (which would have been avoided if they were able to have controlled their speech) shouldn't become a Bible teacher in their church.)** **3**Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. **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. **5**Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. **(A person's speech can proclaim great things and accomplish much.)** Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! **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. **(Although, speech can accomplish the opposite and generally corrupt a person.)** **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: **8**But the tongue can no man tame; *it is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. **(This destructive force can't be defeated by human will power alone.)** **9**Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. **10**Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. **11**Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet *water* and bitter? **12**Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so *can* no fountain both yield salt water and fresh. **(Praising the Lord but talking bad about and bad to others doesn't mix.)**

13Who *is* a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. **(Wise and honorable living is humbly helping others.)** **14**But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. **(Catering to and promoting yourself and your glory instead of boasting about Christ and His mission and being bitterly jealous is wrong.)** **15**This wisdom descendeth not from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, devilish. **(Those things don't come from the wisdom of God and are opposed to His cause.)** **16**For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work. **(They lead to disorder and all kinds of evil.)** **17**But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be intreated, **(easily willing to put the needs and wants of others ahead of theirs')** full of mercy **(forgiving and not punishing)** and good fruits, **(helping others)** without partiality, **(favoritism)** and without hypocrisy. **18**And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace. **(A Christian who promotes peace proves to be righteous.)**

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Chapter 4

James

1From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members? **2**Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, **(When a jealous person isn't able to obtain something or the money of another, they try to take it through fighting and war.)** yet ye have not, because ye ask not. **(This never has to happen; they should ask God for what they desire.)** **3**Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts. **(However, if the money they desire would only be used for pleasure and none used to help others, they shouldn't expect to receive it.)** **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. **5**Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? **(A Christian should be faithful to the Lord and not a friend of the world by living a lifestyle similar to the one explained in chapter 39 of the pdf file book featured at this website – www.areasureyouaresaved.com)** **6**But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. **(A Christian should be humble (acknowledge mistakes and seek to learn from them, put the needs and wants of others ahead of theirs', empathize and offer support, appreciative, help others because they really want to help and not just to get recognition) and not proud. (think you're better and more important than others and don't need to rely on God))**

7Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8**Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. **(When a Christian is tempted to sin, they should refuse to give in and immediately focus on prayer, Bible study, and helping others.)** Cleanse *your* hands, ye sinners; and purify *your* hearts, ye double minded. **9**Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness. **10**Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. **(Sin should be taken seriously, and when it is committed, it should bring sorrow, brokenness, and the desire to not commit the sin again.)**

11Speak 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. **12**There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another? **(God is the one who judges and punishes sin. A Christian shouldn't announce when others sin and how disgraceful they are; their role is to focus on obeying God's law.)**

13Go 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: **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. **15**For that ye *ought* to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. **16**But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil. **(Only the Lord knows what tomorrow holds, so it's sinful and prideful for a person to claim they will go somewhere or do something in the future. For example, a Christian should say, "I'll see you there tomorrow, Lord willing.")** **17**Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin. **(A Christian sins if they feel that the Lord wants them to witness to or help someone but declines to do that.)**

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Chapter 5

James

1Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon *you*. **2**Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. **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. **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. **5**Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. **(Hording money and material things and not caring about or helping others when needs appear (even cheating hired workers of their pay) is sinful. Living each day to only satisfy selfish desires is wrong.)** **6**Ye have condemned *and* killed the just; *and* he doth not resist you. **(Falsely accusing and putting to death someone who stands in the way of selfish and wrong desires means nothing to the type of person described in these verses.)**

7Be 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. **8**Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. **(A Christian should courageously continue following Jesus (living a lifestyle similar to the one explained in chapter 39 of the pdf file book featured at this website – www.areasureyouaresaved.com) until the Lord's return.)** **9**Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door. **(A Christian shouldn't complain about others.)** **10**Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. **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. **(Like Job, a Christian should trust the Lord's tender mercy and never give up following Him, no matter how horrible the trial.)**

12But 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. **(Simply answering with a yes or no is right for a Christian.)**

13Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. **(If a Christian is having trouble, they should ask the Lord to fix the problem or give them wisdom as to how they can be victorious over it. If a Christian is having a good day, they should thank the Lord and sing praises.)** **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: **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. **(If the church elders believe the Lord will answer their prayer, the sick Christian will be healed, and the Lord will forgive their unconfessed sins.)** **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. **(Support amongst Christians in their struggles with overcoming sin is helpful. A Christian can tell another Christian what sins they are committing, and the other Christian can fervently ask the Lord to help them overcome the temptations, and as a result, the struggling Christian can overcome their temptations to sin.)** **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. **18**And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit. **(Prayer can produce miraculous results.)**

19Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; **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. **(This is referring to those who have made professions of faith but didn't really become Christians. These are people who once seemingly lived the Christian lifestyle but have completely turned away. First John 2:19 describes them which says, "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."** A Christian should recognize this and kindly explain to these people that they need to pray to become Christians again.)

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