

Series "Fixed On 66"
"James"
Book-59

Key Passage – James 1:19-22

"The Epistle of Applied Christianity."

The Book of James is called - **A General Epistle**, along with **1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2,** and **3 John** and **Jude**, which were not limited to a single locality.

Philippians and Corinthians were written to a group in a certain locality.
James 1:1 to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad,

The Author – James 1:1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

There are 3 different James' in the N. T.

1. James the son of Zebedee (**Matt. 4:21; 10:2; Luke 5:10**)
2. James the son of Alphaeus (**Matt. 10:3; Acts 1:13**)
3. James the son of Joseph & Mary (½ brother of Jesus) (**Matt 13:55; Gal 1:19**)

The Author is James, the half brother of Jesus;
He was... humble, referring to himself not as "brother" of Jesus, but rather as a
"bond-servant" of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, (James 1:1)

When Written – About 46-49 A. D.

Where it was Written – Jerusalem, James was in Jerusalem
Acts 15; Galatians 1:19

Written To – James 1:1 To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad:

Background – James is writing to believing Jews who were dispersed. He wants their faith to be practical. There is a lack of maturity, so he writes that they might experience a living faith.

Purpose – The Purpose of the Book.

1. To show that true faith produces good works.
2. To emphasize the practical aspects of Christian living.

Theme – *"Christian Maturity" or "Marks of Maturity"*

Key Words – faith 16X, works 15X, good deeds 11X

Key Chapter – James 1 One of the most practical chapters of the Bible.
Handling trials, handling temptations, and use of the Scriptures through being a doer of the Word!

Key Passage – James 1:19-22

Outline – James presents “13 Marks of Maturity” that reveal whether one is mature or immature in the Christian Faith!

1. James 1:1-12 “Mature In Trials” Genuine faith is marked by steadfastness in the face of trials.

Verse - 2 A Joyful Attitude:

James 1:2 Consider (count) an accounting term.

It means “*to evaluate*” it is an honest assessment of the figure.

Verses - 3-4 Understanding Mind: (Respond intelligently)

James 1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

God wants us to respond with our minds, not our emotions.

Verse - 4 A Surrendered Will: Need to respond through yielding.

James 1:4 And let endurance have its perfect result,

Verses - 5-8 A Prayerful Heart: When we go through trials, we Pray!

James 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God,

Verses - 9-12 Glory in The Lord, look to the reward!

2. James 1:13-18 “Mature In Trials” James continues with this subject of trials but looks at it in a different aspect: temptation.

James 1:12-13 We see another use of the word “**Trial**” (**tempted**); this use of the word means a “*solicitation to do evil*”

Verses -13-14 The Source Of Temptations:

James 1:13 “I am being tempted by God”; When a person is tempted and yields to the temptation, he is eager to blame someone for their sin.

Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the serpent.

James 1:14 enticed by his own lust. (Source of temptation)

Verses -15-16 The Course Of Temptations:

James 1:15-16

Verses -17-18 The Victory Of Temptations:

James 1:17

Temptation cannot be outgrown but it can be overcome!

3. James 1:19-27 “Mature In The Word” The proper relationship between those that are spiritual and their relationship to God is in the relationship through His Word.

Give Full Attention To The Word - James 1:19

quick to hear - "*swift in listening*"

**Control Your Tongue - slow to speak
(not slow of talking, but slow to talk)**

Control Your Anger - and slow to anger; Proverbs 14:29

Clean Up Your Life: James 1:21 Therefore putting aside all filthiness

Verses - 22-25 Application Of The Word:

James 1:22 But prove yourselves doers of the word,

Verses - 26-27 Practicality Of The Word:

James 1:26 this man's religion is worthless.

4. James 2:1-13 "Mature In Equity" (Non-Partial) freedom from bias or favoritism: James is concerned about the way that we treat other people.

Verse - 1 Favoritism Condemned: James 2:1 favoritism - The word means "*to receive a face*" *Giving special attention, partial treatment to someone based on outward appearance, or externals.*

Verse - 5 Favoritism Is Inconsistent with God's Actions: It is God's grace.
(Unmerited favor) God chooses not based on checkbook.

Verses - 6-7 Favoritism is inappropriate with man's activity:

Who Is Oppressing You? Is it not the rich who oppress you

Verses - 8-11 Favoritism breaks God's Royal Law: James 2:8

5. James 2:14-26 "Mature In Faith"

Verses -14-19 A Dead Faith: James 2:14

What use is it, my brethren, if a man says

Whenever there is true there will also be counterfeit along with it.

What a person says, never replaces what a person does!

A False Faith will not Bring Salvation:

14 if a someone says he has faith, but he has no works?

Can that faith save him?

False Faith does not Help Others:

James 2:15 without clothing

A False Faith Offers No Evidence At All:

James 2:17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

A False Faith is a Demonic faith:

James 2:19 the demons also believe, and shudder.

Verses - 20-26 A Living Faith:

Abraham (Jew), Rahab (Gentile) are examples of faith in action.

6. James 3:1-12 "Mature In Tongue" The subject of the tongue is used 215 times in the Bible.

Verses - 1-4 Power To Direct:

James 3:2 If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man.

**James 3:3 The Horse: Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths
Ships: James 3:4 Behold, the ships also, though they are so great**

a **very small rudder** here is this large ship led about by this small rudder.

Verses - 5-8 Power To Destroy:

James 3:5 James relates it to spiritual arson.

James 3:8 it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. (Snake)

Verses - 9-12 Power To Delight:

James 3:9

7. James 3:13-18 "Mature In Wisdom"

James has spoken about faith in works, then faith in words now he deals with the subject of "Wisdom."

Verse - 13 The Need Of True Wisdom:

"Knowledge is the possession of facts; Wisdom is the proper use and application of knowledge."

We receive wisdom through Reverence - Psalms 111:10

**We receive wisdom through Conversion - in Christ 161 times by Paul.
1 Corinthians 1:30**

We receive wisdom through Scripture - Psalm 119:105

We receive wisdom through Prayer - James 1:5

Verses - 14-16 Earthly Wisdom and Characteristics:

James 3:14-15

Verses - 17-18 Heavenly Wisdom and Characteristics:

James 3:17-18

8. James 4:1-10 "Mature In Subjection" The wars among us are caused by the war within us!

Verses - 1-2 Worldliness, Its Cause:

James 4:1 quarrels - Speaks of wars which was ongoing.
conflicts - speaks of flair-ups, outbursts, those hot times.

“fights and quarrels” “wars and fights.”

The essence of sin is selfishness. It is our will over God’s will.

Verses - 3-6 Worldliness, Its Consequences:

James 4:3, 6

Verses - 7-10 Worldliness, Its Cure:

James 4:7 He gives four steps to cure worldliness.

1. Submit to God, Resist the efforts of the devil -
2. Drawing near to God in faith and worship,
3. Forsaking sinful deeds and thoughts -
4. Acknowledging sinfulness with serious reflection and appropriate belief.

9. James 4:11-12 “Mature In Speech”

He speaks of the sin of the saints, which is slander.

Verse - 11 Slander Is Not To Be:

James 4:11 Do not speak against one another, brethren.

This is a command, and it is to the point.

Do not speak against is speaking of a “*continual speaking against other persons.*”

This word is translated “*backbiter.*” It means, “*one who speaks against another.*”

There is the speaking forth of untruths:

Slander – “*is malicious speech that is untrue.*”

There is the speaking forth of truth that contains the faults and sins of others: Slander -

Verse - 11 Slander Is Above The Law:

James 4:11 and judges the law; How do we judge the law?

When we go against what Scripture clearly tells us is wrong, we are saying that the law has no value

Verse - 12 Slander Is Above God:

James 4:12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge,

10. James 4:13-17 “Mature In Planning”

James deals with another sin of the spirit that is another aspect of “Worldliness.” This sin is based on the sin of omission. It is planning for the future and leaving God out of the plan. This sin of the spirit when boiled down is really the sin of pride and arrogance.

Verse -13 Planning Without God:

James 4:13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit."

We need to have goals in business, yes, the Christian businessman must but the ultimate goal must be for God's glory and servng humanity.

Verses -13-16 Presuming To Know:

Life is Complex: So much was counted on, **13 today, tomorrow, spend a year, engage in business and make a profit."**

Life is Uncertain: **James 4:14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow** Life is not predicable, transitory.

Literal translation - "*you who know not regarding tomorrow what sort of life you will have.*"

Life is Short:

James 4:14 You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

15 Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that." The error was not in what was said but in what was not said. God should have been in the planning.

Verses -17 Postponing His Will:

James 4:17 Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

to one who knows the right thing to do, "Procrastination Is the Thief of Time."

Knowledge and responsibility go together.

and does not do it, to him it is sin. The sin of omission,

11. James 5:1-6 "Mature In Resources" Wealth is a stewardship; it has been given to us by God.

Verses -1-3 The Judgment Of The Rich: (3 Facts of Judgment)

James 5:1

1. Coming Judgment: Should Cause Them To Wail Now:

weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you.

which are coming upon you. It is already in the process.

2. Coming Judgment: Wealth Already Corrupted:

Everything except for the spiritual will not last.

3. Coming Judgment: Wealth Will Testify Against You:

James 5:3 and their rust will be a witness against you

Verses -4-6 The Deeds Of The Rich: (3 Actions condemned)

1. Action Of Withholding Wages:

James 5:4 Behold, the pay of the laborers

2. Action Of Luxury And Indulgence: James 5:5

3. Action Of Condemning And Killing The Righteous: James 5:6

12. James 5:7-12 "Mature In Patience" James now returns to the subject of patience, 3 well known examples to learn patience from:

1. Verses-7-9 Example Of The Farmer: James 5:7

2. Verse-10 Example Of The Prophets:

James 5:10

We need Patience When We Face Disapproval:

Elijah - Jeremiah - Ezekiel and Daniel -

3. Verses-11-12 Example Of Job:

James 5:11

We Need Patience When We Face Disaster:

You have heard of the endurance of Job In Job 1-3 Job's Distress - In Job 4-37 Job's Defense - In Job 38-42 Job's Deliverance -

13. James 5:13-20 "Mature In Prayer" A mark of maturity is dependence on God through prayer.

Verse -13 Prayer For The Broken Hearted:

Verses -14-15 Prayer For The Sick:

Verse -16 Prayer For Relationships:

Verses -17-18 Prayer For Our Nation:

Verses-19-20 Prayer For The Straying:

Application: Genuine faith will produce real change in our conduct and character. A lack of change in conduct and character is a symptom of a false or dead faith!