

Series: "Marks Of Maturity"
"13 Marks Of Maturity"
James 1-5
Study-14

James 2:14
"Epistle of Applied Christianity"

Author - James the Lord's brother. **James 1:1 James, a bond-servant of God**

James presents "13 Marks Of Maturity"

1st "Mark Of Maturity: Trials" James 1:1-12

Thought Of Our Passage: Our Trials Include A Joyful Attitude, Understanding Mind, Prayerful Heart, Glory In Spiritual Position, And Looking Forward To The Reward

1. Verse 2 A Joyful Attitude: **James 1:2 consider (count)** accounting term "to evaluate," *it is an honest assessment of the figure.* spiritual perspective.

2. Verses 3-4 Understanding Mind: (Respond Intelligently) **James 1:3**

3. Verses 5-8 A Prayerful Heart: **James 1:5 Where Do We Find Wisdom? Learn/gain it on our knees.**

4. Verses 9-11 Glory In Our Spiritual Position: **James 1:9 When we are of humble circumstances, this can lead us to dependence upon God.**

5. Verse 12 Look Forward To The Reward: **James 1:12**

God Wants Us To Respond With Our Minds Not Our Emotions:

2nd "Mark Of Maturity: Temptations" James 1:13-18

Thought Of Our Passage: Beware, Lest A Trial Sent From God Becomes A Temptation From Lust, Resulting In Fruitlessness Instead Of Fruitfulness

Temptation Confronts All Of Us! Matthew 26:41

1. Verse 13 Don't Blame God For Temptations: **Don't Blame Shift -**

2. Verses 14-15 The Source Of Temptations Is Lust:
James 1:14 enticed by his own lust. (Source of temptation)

3. Verses 16-18 God Brings Good, Not Bad: **James 1:16**

Temptation Cannot Be Outgrown But Can Be Overcome!

3rd "Mark Of Maturity: The Word" James 1:19-27

Thought Of Our Passage: Maturity Is Hearing, And Receiving The Word In Humility With A Desire For The Application Of The Word

1. Verses - 19-20 Hearing The Word: **James 1:19 must be quick to hear,** *"Be swift and eager to receive God's Word, students of the Word."*

2. Verse - 21 Receiving The Word: **James 1:21 receive the word implanted,** *Accept God's Word, Not to argue with it, not to try to make it teach what we want*

3. Verses - 22-27 Doing The Word: **James 1:22**

The proper relationship between those who are spiritual and God is through their relationship to His Word. John 1:14 "Word became Flesh"

4th "Mark Of Maturity: Favoritism" James 2:1-13

Thought Of Our Passage: Favoritism Inconsistent With God, James Illustrates Through The Believers' Fellowship, And Goes Against The Royal Law That Will Judge Us

1. Verse 1 Favoritism Condemned: **James 2:1**
Our faith in Jesus Christ does not mix with personal favoritism.

2. Verses 2-4 Favoritism Illustrated: **James 2:2**

3. Verses 5-11 Favoritism Argued: **James 2:5**

4. Verses 12-13 Favoritism Judged: **James 2:12** We will stand before God!

The way that we behave towards people indicates what we really believe about God. We cannot, and dare not, separate human relationships from Divine fellowship.

5th "Mark Of Maturity: Faith" James 2:14-26

Thought Of Our Passage: Genuine Faith Involves Confirmation By The Heart, Confession By The Tongue, And Action By The Limbs

1. Verses 14-20 A Dead Faith: **James 2:14 What a person says/claims never replaces what a person does!**

2. Verses 21-26 A Living Faith: **James 2:21 Genesis 22** Abraham's Faith

The Kind Of Faith That Saves A Person Is One That Is Intellectual, Of The Heart, And Involves The Will:

6th "Mark Of Maturity: Tongue" James 3:1-12

Thought Of Our Passage: The Power Of The Tongue To Direct, To Destroy, And To Delight Is All Utilized By The Mature Christian

"Tongue" appears 215 times in the Bible. Matthew 12:37

1. Verse 1 Tongue In Teaching: James 3:1 stricter judgment - "greater judgment, special strictness"

2. Verses 2-5 Power Of The Tongue:

James 3:2 The more you talk the greater the opportunity there is to make mistakes/offenses.

3. Verses 6-8 Vicious Nature Of The Tongue: James 3:6

4. Verses 9-12 Inconsistency Of The Tongue: James 3:9

Inconsistency Of Our Tongue Should Not Be So; Blessing God And Then Cursing Man.

The Believers' New Nature Should Produce A Fountain Of Refreshment, Words Of Grace.

7th "Mark Of Maturity: Wisdom" James 3:13-18

Thought Of Our Passage: We Need Wisdom, World's Wisdom Is Earthly, Natural, And Demonic God's Wisdom Is Peaceable, Gentle, Reasonable

1. Verse 13 The Proof Of True Wisdom: James 3:13 "Knowledge - is the possession of facts; **Wisdom** - is the proper use and application of knowledge."

True wisdom and understanding will be manifested in conduct. The way one conducts oneself.

2. Verses 14-16 Earthly Wisdom and Characteristics: James 3:14; Proverbs 8:11

3. Verses 17-18 Heavenly Wisdom and Characteristics: James 3:17

"Not easy to admit that we are wrong. The wisdom of this world is headstrong, obstinate, and unwilling to submit. A teachable open spirit is often a major key in defusing conflict."

8th "Mark Of Maturity: Worldliness" James 4:1-10

Thought Of Our Passage: Worldliness Caused By Our Passions, Results In Being Enemies Of God, Cured By Resisting, Drawing, Forsaking, And Acknowledging

1. Verses 1-3 Results Of Giving Self 1st Priority: James 4:1 Lust/Passions

2. Verses 4-6 Error Of Establishing Wrong Priorities: James 4:4 "you" is used 13 times in Verses 1-5. No guessing what the problem is!

3. Verses 7-10 Requirement Of Giving God 1st Priority:

James 4:7 Submit/Subject - Greek military term (a command) "to arrange troop divisions in a military fashion under the command of a leader"

When we sin and try to cover and are not willing to confess it, we are declaring war against God.

9th "Mark Of Maturity: Judgment" James 4:11-12

Thought Of Our Passage: Judging Others Out Of Spite Or To Expose Their Sin Is Against God's Law And Against God Himself

1. Verse 11 Judging Is Not To Be: **James 4:11 There is no clearer proof of following the devil than when we are spreading lies and speaking forth untruths.**

2. Verse 11 Judging Is Above The Law: **James 4:11 "Only God can pass judgment on a person's actions and motives without fault, without hypocrisy, and without spite."**

3. Verse 12 Judging Is Above God: **James 4:12**

The logic is that since only God is the only one that can save and destroy, only God has the right to judge.

Acrostic Using The Word **THINK**

T – is it **T**True? **H** - is it **H**Helpful? **I** - is it **I**nspiring? **N** – is it **N**ecessary? **K** – is it **K**ind?

10th "Mark Of Maturity: Goals" James 4:13-17

Thought Of Our Passage: Believers Will Fail In Making Plans When We Presume To Know God's Will, And Postpone Doing God's Will

1. Verse 13 Planning Without God: **James 4:13**

James is not saying it's wrong or negative to make plans; the wrong is leaving God out of our plans. It is wrong to plan without God. Proverbs 16:9; Proverbs 19:21

2. Verses 13-16 Presuming To Know: **James 4:13** Life Is Complicated, Is Uncertain, And Short, So Our Dependence Upon The Lord Is Essential:

3. Verses 17 Postponing His Will: **James 4:17** We Must Be Willing To Obey God's Will When We Discover It. God's Will Is Always In Harmony With God's Word:

11th "Mark Of Maturity: Riches" James 5:1-6

Thought Of Our Passage: Regarding Wealth, God Asks Two Questions: "How Did You Use Your Wealth?" And "How Did You Gain Your Wealth?"

It takes God-given wisdom and supernatural humility to be able to manage wealth and influence! (Resisting Human Pride)

1. Verses 1-3 How You Used Your Wealth: **James 5:1**

James Presents Three Facts of God's Judgment Upon The Rich:

1. Verse 1 Coming Judgment: Will Cause The Rich To Wail Now:

2. Verse 2 Coming Judgment: Wealth Already Corrupted: James 5:2

3. Verse 3 Coming Judgment: Wealth Will Testify Against You:

2. Verses 4-6 How You Gained Your Wealth:

James Presents Three Charges Against Them:

"How Did You Gain Your Wealth?"

1. Verse 4 Deed Of Withheld Wages: James 5:4

2. Verse 5 Deeds Of Luxury And Self-Indulgence:

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

12th "Mark Of Maturity: Patience" James 5:7-12

Thought Of Our Passage: God Has Given Examples Of Patience, We Need Patience To Face Difficulty, Disappointment, Disapproval, Disaster, And Dishonesty

1. Verses 7-9 Example - The Farmer: James 5:7 The lesson of the farmer - is keep on working. Don't give up, don't get sidetracked and fight other farmers but work together as a team to reach the common goal.

2. Verse 10 Example - The Prophets:

James 5:10 The Lesson of the Prophets is - Keep On Witnessing.

No matter how hard or trying the circumstances may be.

3. Verses 11-12 Example - Of Job: James 5:11 Lesson From Job - We wait for the Lord to fulfill His loving purpose in our lives; He will not let us suffer needlessly. We will come to know Him better.

13th "Marks Of Maturity: Prayer" James 5:13-20

Thought Of Our Passage: Prayer Is God's Solution To Life's Pain, Suffering, Relationships, Our Nation, And For Persons Straying

1. Verse 13 Prayer For The Suffering: James 5:13

2. Verses 14-15 Prayer For The Sick: James 5:14

3. Verse 16 Prayer For Relationships: James 5:16

4. Verses 17-18 Prayer For Our Nation: James 5:17

5. Verses 19-20 Prayer For The Straying: James 5:19

James 5:20 and will cover (*Forgiveness*) a multitude of sins.