

Self Study - Lesson 2

James: A Life of Faith and Wisdom

James 1:2-18

Faith and Wisdom

2 My friends, be glad, even if you have a lot of trouble. 3 You know that you learn to endure by having your faith tested. 4 But you must learn to endure everything, so that you will be completely mature and not lacking in anything.

5 If any of you need wisdom, you should ask God, and it will be given to you. God is generous and won't correct you for asking. 6 But when you ask for something, you must have faith and not doubt. Anyone who doubts is like an ocean wave tossed around in a storm. 7 If you are that kind of person, you can't make up your mind, and you surely can't be trusted. So don't expect the Lord to give you anything at all.

Poor People and Rich People

9 Any of God's people who are poor should be glad that he thinks so highly of them. 10 But any who are rich should be glad when God makes them humble. Rich people will disappear like wild flowers 11 scorched by the burning heat of the sun. The flowers lose their blossoms, and their beauty is destroyed. That is how the rich will disappear, as they go about their business.

Trials and Temptations

12 God will bless you, if you don't give up when your faith is being tested. He will reward you with a glorious life, just as he rewards everyone who loves him.

13 Don't blame God when you are tempted! God cannot be tempted by evil, and he doesn't use evil to tempt others. 14 We are tempted by our own desires that drag us off and trap us. 15 Our desires make us sin, and when sin is finished with us, it leaves us dead.

16 Don't be fooled, my dear friends. 17 Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father who created all the lights in the heavens. He is always the same and never makes dark shadows by changing. 18 He wanted us to be his own special people, and so he sent the true message to give us new birth.

The Holy Bible: The Contemporary English Version (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995), Jas 1:2-18.

1) What questions or insights do you have about this passage? Write down anything that is confusing, surprising, challenging, or hard to understand. **Submit a question on the website to be answered during the next lesson: cfwchurch.com/james**

2) Read the passage in other translations. How do the differences affect your understanding? Are they saying the same thing in different words, or do they change the meaning of what's being said?

3) Identify the People in the text. It may be a named person or a description of a type of person. What roles does each person play in the text?

4) Cross-Reference the scripture. Let scripture interpret scripture. Most Bibles have a list of cross-references next to each verse. What cross-references did you find interesting? What was the relevance to this passage of scripture?

5) Summarize this passage in your own words. Pretend you only have 30 seconds to tell another person what the passage of scripture is about. What would you say?

6) How has this passage of scripture challenged you? What response do you have to the scripture? What does it make you want to do?

