

INTRODUCTION: THE JAMES PLAN (see Jms.4:15)

I. BIBLE: JAMES 1:1-11

A. JAMES: THE LORD'S BROTHER (1; see Acts 12:2,17; Gal.1:19)

B. TWELVE TRIBES / DISPERSED: MEMBERS / OUT OF BOUNDS (1,2; see Acts 8:2f; 11:19)

C. GREETINGS: LETTER TO BE READ (1,2; see Col.4:16; 1Th.5:27)

D. CHRISTIAN SUFFERING (2f, 12f; see 2:6; 5:10,11)

1. the normal Christian life (3; see Acts 14:22; 2Tm.3:12; 1Pt.5:9)

2. a good thing in its present results (2-4; see Rom.5:3-5; Heb.12:11; Eph.4:15)

3. pray for wisdom to endure it (5-8; see Heb.5:7f (Lk.22:41f))

4. a good thing in its eternal results (9-11; 12; 5:7-11; see Mt.5:10-12; 1Pt.1:6,7; 4:12f; 5:10f; 1Cor.15:19)

II. DOCTRINE: TEMPTATION & TESTING (2,3; see 12a,b)

A. TEMPTATION IS NOT SINFUL (Mt.4:1f; Heb.4:15)

B. TEMPTATION NOT AUTOMATICALLY RESULT IN SIN (Mt.4:1f; Heb.4:15; see Jms.1:12f; 4:7; Mt.4:11)

C. TEMPTATION AS TESTING (2,3; 12; see Gen.50:20; 45:5f)

1. grow in success (Heb.4:15; 5:8,9; see Lk.1:26f,34f; growing bones)

2. grow from failure (Ps.51:f; Lk.22:31f; Jn.6:6f; see Lk.1:5f,18f; broken bones)

D. GOD TESTS THROUGH SATAN'S TEMPTATIONS (2,3; see 12a,b; 13f; see 1Cor.5:5)

1. Jesus in the wilderness (Mt.4:1f)

2. Job (Job 1:12,21; 2:6,10 (Jms.5:10,11))

3. Abraham (Gen.22:1 (Heb.11:17; Jms.2:21))

E. GOD'S GYMNASIUM FOR PERFECT DEVELOPMENT (4; see Lk.6:40; 2Tm.3:16; Heb.5:14(8f); 12:11,23; Ps.144:1; see Eph.4:12f)

III. PRACTICE: LOVE THE GAIN! (Jms.1:2f; see Mt.4:1f; Heb.4:15; 5:8,9)

A. PRAY TO BE SPARED! (Jms.1:5; Mt.6:13; see 26:39; 2Cor.12:7; see 1Cor.10:13; 2Pt.2:9)

B. PREPARE FOR YOUR TRIALS! (Jms.1:2f; see 1Pt.4:13 w/Rom.6:5; 8:17)

1. you are at war! (Jms.1:2; see Eph.6:10-12)

2. be fully equipped with the Scriptures in mind, heart & habit! (Jms.1:1; Eph.6:13-17; Mt.4:4,7,10; see Heb.5:11f,8f; 2Tm.3:16,17)

3. be fully composed in prayer! (Jms.1:5-7,2f; see Eph.6:18f; Mt.4:1,2f; 6:5,16; Acts 14:23)

4. don't fight alone! (Jms.1:2; see Eph.6:18b; 4:11-16)

5. travel light! (Jms.1:9-11; see Phil.4:11f; 1Tm.6:6f; 2Tm.2:3,4)

C. FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT! (Jms.1:3,4; 1Tm.1:18; 6:12; 2Tm.4:7; see Mt.4:1f; Eph.6:10f)

D. FIGHT TO WIN! (Jms.1:2f; 1Cor.9:26; Mt.4:1f; Heb.5:8f; 12:1,2f; 2Tm.4:7)

E. CHRIST IS IN YOUR CORNER! (Jms.1:5f; see Heb.2:18; 4:15; 5:8,9; see Mt.4:1f; Jn.14:16)

F. GROW IN GRACE! (Jms.1:2f; Rom.5:3f; see Heb.5:8f; 12:5f)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why?
3. Which James is the author of this letter? Who did he write to? Why does this matter to you?
4. What is James's reason for commanding us to rejoice in our trials?
5. In what sense does the Bible talk about a kind of "purgatory"? (see 1Pt.1:6,7; 4:12f)
6. How does...
 - a. Testing produce endurance in faithfulness?
 - b. Endurance produce maturity in righteousness?
7. In verse 5, wisdom for what? (see 2f)
8. How does Hebrews 11:6 apply to James 1:6-8?
9. Why is it important that a soldier "travel light"? How does this apply to trials in the Christian life? (see Jms.1:9-11)
10. How are you doing in preparing for your trials? Where are you strong? Weak? How can you persevere and/or improve?
11. How are you doing in fighting the good fight? What help do you need? What help can you give to others?
12. Do you look at temptations as an opportunity to grow? If so, how do you do this? If not, how could you do this?