



Study In **James**

James 5:1-20

Break Through

Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover a multitude of sin. James 5:20

A Warning for the Wealthy - James 5:1-6

What will happen to the wealth of certain "rich people?"

What are these people guilty of?

What should wealth be used for? (2 Cor. 9:6-14)

What change are you willing to make in the way you handle your money?

What's the Truth!

Money can be a deadly trap or a tool for ministry. It can be a blessing or a curse, depending on how we handle it and the place it holds in our hearts.

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.
Tim. 6:10

Ask God to show you how you can clearly grow in a way to handle money effectively.

Brain Tease James 5:7-11



What great promise do believers need to wait patiently for?

Why is the farmer a good example of patience?

Why do you think we are specifically told not to grumble against each other as we wait for Christ's return?

Read Matthew 5:12 and tell why the prophets are such good examples of patience.



Command Against Swearing James 5:12

What did Jesus say about swearing? (Matthew 5:33-37)

Why might we feel to "swear" something is true?

What does it mean to "Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No" be no"?

Do people believe you when you say "yes" or "no"?



James 5:19-20

Instruction about Prayer James 5:13-18

What should we do when we are:
in trouble

happy

sick

Why is prayer always the best answer?

What specific guidelines make these prayers effective?

When have you seen the importance of faith in your prayers?

Practice in Faith

What responsibility do we have
for one another?

Read Proverbs 24:11-12
Proverbs 27:6

Have you ever had someone love
you enough to be honest with you
about a wrong path you were on?

It's the Truth!

Everything we do in this
life counts. Every situation
is an opportunity to turn to
God, to grow closer to Him
and make a difference in
someone else's life. It all
begins when we recognize
that God is in control.

How can you put verses
19 and 20 into practice?

James Study Chapter 5

James 5 deals with attitudes toward health and wealth, prayer and pain. It also has repeated references to the Second Coming of Christ. James writes of "the last days... the Lord's coming...Judge...standing at the door." At the end of a book dealing with living consistent, concerned lives, James's words remind us that this present evil world is not all there is. He discusses how we should live while we wait for Jesus Christ to return, take control, and make His world right.



Verse 1-6 could be titled "The Perils of the Rich" for James challenges the privileged people of his day who are apparently taking advantage of the poor and helpless. God never says it is a sin to be wealthy. The possession of money does not make one evil any more than the lack of it makes one virtuous. The important questions are: How was the money acquired? How is it being used?

James accuses the rich of defrauding the poor. The rich benefitted at the expense of the less fortunate. His language is harsh ("weep and wail...gold and silver will...eat your flesh like fire"), but he wants to persuade people who are rich but spiritually needy to change their minds and their behavior and avoid God's judgment, Solomon said it plainly in Proverbs 11:4: "Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death."

Regarding the power of prayer, James gives practical advice. He identifies three types of people and advises all three to pray, and to communicate with God. If we are in distress, pray. God will bring relief by healing or by giving endurance, patience, or strength to go through the suffering (Isaiah 43:1-2).

To encourage those humiliated and oppressed, James presents four commands in verse 7-12:

Be patient.

God acts at the right time for the right purpose.

Stand Firm.

Don't become discouraged. Jesus is coming back soon.

Do not grumble.

Don't complain against others. The prophets were prosecuted, yet remained true to the word of God.

Do not swear.

Our word should be good; a godly person's word will be good.

Ponder This

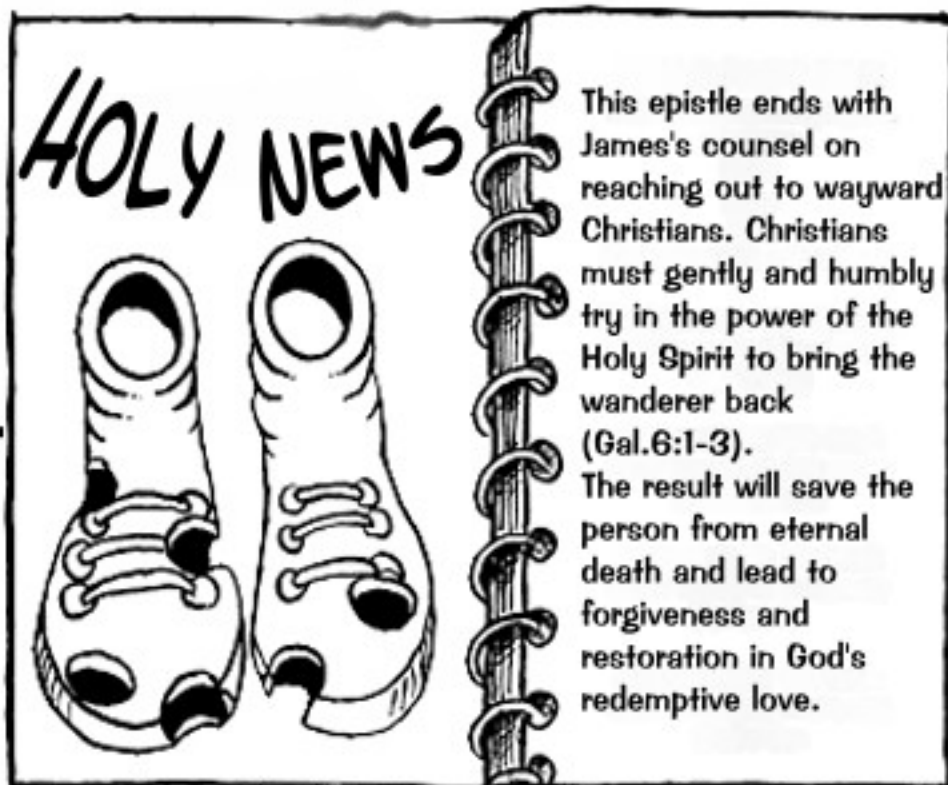
Think about whether our words honor God.

We must think before we speak because God expects us to keep our promises just as He does. When you say you will do something, do you do it?

Think about the way Scripture makes it clear that we should go directly to the Lord with our prayers (1 Tim. 2:5; Hebrews 4:14-16). However, James acknowledges the value of believers sharing their failures and experiencing the healing that comes from having mature, godly believers pray for each other.

Remember, He saves us through our trials, but not from them. He prepares us for the road ahead, which only He can see. Do you trust Him?

James instructs his readers to pray. The apostle Paul also urges us to "Pray continually" (1 Thess. 5:17). Our prayers to the Lord should be natural, spoken in an attitude of praise and thanksgiving. In verse 16, James encourages his readers to pray as well as to practice righteousness: "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective". James then gives an example of how powerful our prayers can be. He explains how Elijah was a human being like us, and God used his prayers to control the powers of nature.



As we believe in Jesus, He comes alive within us. By faith we begin to live the Christian life (Gal. 3:1-3), which is impossible to do unless we allow Christ to live it through us. We must daily give up control of our lives- our tongues and our money, our today's and tomorrow's -to God and ask Him to give us wisdom, power, patience, and self-control. Will you ask Him to make you a better person because you have studied this book? Let your faith show at home, in school, wherever you are.



James teaches us the necessity of practicing our faith in Christ and points our many ways to demonstrate that faith.

We have learned that "faith without deeds is dead" (2:26), but we must also realize that deeds without faith are useless.

Faith -not- works forms the basis of our lives in Christ (Eph. 2:8-9). Our hope of glory lies in what Christ did not in what we do. That hope in us when we are born again (John 3:3-8).

Read 1 Tim. 6:6-10; 17-19, and decide what kind of attitude you want to have towards money.