

## JAMES 3-5: A MANUAL FOR WISE INSTRUCTION, PART 2

Questions and Answers from James 3 - 5.

1) Why does James discourage many of his readers from becoming teachers? (3:1)

*God's expectations from teachers are higher than from students.*

2) What evidence does James provide to show that the tongue is "a restless evil, full of deadly poison"? (3: 7-10)

*All kinds of creatures can be tamed by humans but not the tongue. From the same mouth come both blessings and curses. This is deceitful and hypocritical behaviour.*

3) How does James describe the wisdom that does not come from heaven? (3: 15-16)

*It is false wisdom, that comes from "bitter envy and selfish ambition." It is "boastful" and leads to "disorder and wickedness" of different kinds.*

4) What are the characteristics of the wisdom that comes from heaven?

(3: 17)

*It is "pure" (sincere), "then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy."*

5) Why do people fight, quarrel and kill? (4: 1-3)

*We have cravings (desires) that are at war within us. We want something and are willing to kill to get it. We desire something and come into conflict to get it. We even ask God for things and feel unsatisfied because we want these things for selfish reasons that don't serve the greater good or our own integrity.*

6) What positive actions can believers take to show humility and receive God's grace? (4:6-10)

*We must come face to face with our doublemindedness, our inner divisiveness, the cravings and desires in us that are not life-giving but corrosive and destructive. We must come to God on our knees and open our hearts to God's gracious cleansing and renewal.*

7) Who can judge another person? (4:12)

*Only God can.*

8) What kind of actions reveal boastfulness and presumption? (4:13-16)

*Presumption about the future and one's plans for it, talking about right or wrong but failing to act on it. Hypocrites tend to be more boastful than those who actually do what they say they will do.*

9) James foretells that the rich will suffer miseries (5:1-6). Why will this happen?

*This will happen because the rich have kept back by fraud the wages of labourers and harvesters who have worked their fields.*

10) James gives three examples of people who had extraordinary patience (5: 7-11). Who are they?

*There is a farmer, waiting for the harvest, the prophets who spoke in God's name, and Job who trusted tenaciously that God would answer.*

11) Why is James against swearing oaths? (5:12)

*Because he believes a person's word should be trustworthy for what it is – yes and no.*

12) How should people act who are in trouble, happy, or sick? (5: 13-14)

*James recommends that people who are in trouble should exercise their praying, people who are happy should sing praises to God, and people who are sick should welcome prayers for them by elders of the church, which should include anointing with oil (an ancient sacrament of healing).*

13) What should people do when they recognize sin in their lives and relationships? (5:15-16)

*They should seek out forgiveness from God and one another and confess their sins to one another so that they may experience genuine healing.*

14) Who is a good example of a righteous person whose prayers were effective? (5: 16-18)

*The prophet Elijah.*

15) What is the right thing to do when a brother or sister in the faith wanders from true and right living? (5: 19-20)

*The right thing to do is to prayerfully, gently and lovingly try to bring the person back to their senses and to the right way. In doing so, not only is the person helped, but bad consequences can be prevented.*