James #27

True glory is only found in your eternal position.

Open back up in the epistle of James RF.

As we dig deeper into the letter from James we have to plant our feet in the historic factors. He took over the church in Jerusalem, it was predominately Jewish converts.

He is reaching outward to Jewish converts scattered abroad as well as addressing his own congregation in Jerusalem.

One of the problem areas was Judaism making its way back into the early church.

Adding rituals, laws and commands from Judaism was a key issue. There were also many Jewish converts who looked down their nose on Gentile Bels, as well as the wealthier Bels looking to be evaluated in status over the less fortunate Christians.

REPEAT

/There was a Christian presence among most Jewish communities throughout the world. Regarding the extent of the statement that James writes to Jews scattered abroad, the famous Jewish historian Josephus wrote: “*There is no city, no tribe, whether Greek or barbarian, in which Jewish law and Jewish customs have not taken root.”\*

This was a highly respected 1st century scholar. He also wrote about the trial and execution of a rebel rouser named Jesus, under the authority of Pontius Pilate.

So now we know the foundation of the historical context of what James was writing about.

Jam 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

[Jas 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/6/s_1147006) But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

/Pastor James reveals that God's goal for Believers in allowing us to experience trials is personal responsibility, growth toward maturity. He also explained that the method by which we attain this goal is by patiently accepting our trials as from God. Having a steadfast faith which is built upon truth, application and the divine power of the HS (new nature).\

We are not to be emotionally wrapped up into the details of life, having every changing circumstance of life toss us off course from spiritual growth.

[Jas 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/7/s_1147007) For that person ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

The Christian who dwells in the OSN, tossed about by false doctrines, counterfeits and emotional nonsense has a consistent broken fellowship with the Trinity.

God can not bless a Bel with no capacity for blessing. Just as GOD can never fellowship with sin.

[Jas 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/8/s_1147008) *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

The unstable Bel has never built up a strong foundation of the Edification Complex of the Soul.

What you absorb will build something within your soul – if it is false doctrine or human viewpoint, that is what you will stand upon during the challenges of life.

If the Christian refuses to study the accuracy of the word, filled by God the HS - they will reap the misery and confusion of the emotional rollercoaster of instability.

REPEAT

/[Jas 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/9/s_1147009) Now the brother *or sister* of **humble *circumstances* is to glory in his high position**;

[Jas 1:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/10/s_1147010) but **the rich person *is to glory* in his humiliation**, because like flowering grass he will pass away.\

Verse 9 into verse 10 flow together concerning doctrinal principles. Therefore, we will cover these two over the next few lessons.

James is using a very strong contrast for two reason – first is what he has witnessed in his own congregation in Jerusalem.

Second is a strong teaching principle in relation to the details of life as well as wealth and poverty creating a distraction in the Christian life.

/Jam 1:9 – *of humble circumstances,* *tapeinos;*  often used for a person or circumstance that lacks any recognition, lacking wealth or status. Poverty and lack of status does not hinder a spiritual life, it is also not a guarantee of spirituality.\

TAP-I-NOS, this Greek adjective did not always simply mean poor – lacking wealth. It highlighted a position of least recognition…very humble beginnings.

Poverty or wealth, high status or being an outcast in society, makes no difference in true spirituality.

God does not *see* as man sees, because man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.

(1Sam 16:7)

/Jam 1:10 - Grass in many places within Palestine only stays green a few weeks. The term "*flowering grass*", is pulled from Isaiah 40:6-8. It is a combination of two thoughts, *"the grass withers*" and *"the flower fades*." In ancient Hebrew, mixing metaphors was a way of highlighting the issue and introducing deeper thought on a subject matter.\

James is going to point out several factors, first, that wealth or lack of wealth, has little or no meaning inside the plan of God.

Second, is that life itself is fleeting. Therefore, we can never put any real stock in a big house or big bank account.

Just as we can never assume when we are at a low point financially or physically, that it will last forever and it does not dictate our eternal security.

REPEAT

Turn in your bibles to 1Timothy chapter six RF.

/Our challenges, trials, as well as our triumphs on the earth, are only temporary. This fact should help us endure our trials, and keep us from becoming overly confident in our personal victories and material blessings. James seems to be indicating that trials erase any superficial distinctions that appear to separate the rich Christian from the poor one.\

Having no bank account, or a huge bank account does not change the pathway toward SM.

Challenges, trials, attacks and adversity come in many shapes and sizes.

All Christians will have their fair share throughout their spiritual walk.

Being wealthy has nothing to do with sin – just as being poor has nothing to do with sin.

There are some people who get blessed by Satan with wealth or power in time. That does happen, just as there are Christians who have maintained a serious relationship with God, and applied doctrinal principles in life and they reap financial rewards.

REPEAT

I warn you, it is futile and arrogant to assume you know how a person fell into poverty or stepped upward into wealth.

Remember the words of Jesus on this subject matter;

/Mat 5:45 so that you may prove yourselves to be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes **His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good**, and sends **rain on *the* righteous and *the*  unrighteous**.\

All I am reminding you of, is the fact that we do not have all the details on everyone’s life. We are not called to be a judge and jury for another person.

What Pastor James is pointing out is our own human nature, that loves to look at the exterior when we should be focused on our own interior.

The focus is upon our own faith and our own relationship with God.

Let us close today, looking at the lessons the Apostle Paul taught to a young pastor-teacher named Timothy.

/1Tim 6:6 But **godliness *actually* is a means of great gain** *when* accompanied by **contentment**.

Godliness – *eusebeia,* speaks to reaching forward into maturity. This is a description of a Bel in a lifestyle of consistent forward motion.\

USE-EE-BUY-AH, points to duty, honor and integrity, only found in a Christian who is actively pursuing spiritual maturity.

Notice the formula – it is a means of great gain when accompanied by divine happiness – contentment.

Immature Bels rarely hold onto any contentment, they always need stimulation and they need comfortable circumstances.

SM Bels have learned contentment in any circumstance.

REPEAT

[1Ti 6:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ti/6/7/s_1125007) For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it, either.

/There is no amount of wealth, land, prestige or recognition that accompanies you beyond the grave. The only reward and recognition we receive is through our union with Christ and what HE accomplishes IN US after salvation. The mature Bel lives by this very fact, the details of life, good or bad, does not distract them.\

God cares more about your spiritual capacity then your bank account and social status.

When the Christian has a priority issue that brings forth a capacity issue.

When your priorities are all directed at the temporal life – the details of life, instead of your relationship with God, this is glaring warning you lack spiritual capacity.

/[1Ti 6:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ti/6/8/s_1125008) If we have food and covering, with these **we shall be content**.

Phl 4:11 Not that I speak from need, for **I have learned to be content in whatever *circumstances* I am**.\

*We shall be content,* is written in the future tense – indictive mood. This is a true statement of fact, no matter what happens in the future.

This is because as the Apostle Paul had taught many times - contentment comes as a skill set, it must be learned.

REPEAT

Contentment is divine happiness and it only unfolds in the life of a Bel who is growing toward maturity.

/ Whenever a Believer is prosperous it does not mean that a Bel is also spiritual mature. Prosperity does not indicate godliness. Godliness is the basis for true prosperity but prosperity does not imply godliness. Capacity always occurs before higher levels of growth and blessings unfold in our life.\

The adversities and testing we endure and pass bring forth capacity.

Capacity happens by becoming steadfast during challenges and tests.

/[1Ti 6:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ti/6/9/s_1125009) But **those who want** (*boulomai*)**to get rich** fall into temptation and a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires which **plunge people into ruin** and destruction.

The Greek present tense – deliberate intentions, strong desires toward power, wealth and approbation is a pathway to self-induced misery.\

BULL-OH-MY, this verb speaks to a strong desire, it points to great effort, a lust pattern.

Money or even fame and power are never the issue – the capacity to handle those blessings are the issue.

[1Ti 6:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ti/6/10/s_1125010) For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

THE LOVE OF money is the root!

/We pierce ourselves like a massive, fish hook into our soul, when our desires and efforts are pointed toward the cosmic system away from our relationship with God. The root of all sorts of evils are found within the OSN’s lust patterns. Until the Christian recognizes their own weakness in the flesh as well as strength in the flesh, they continually get pulled off the path toward maturity.\

It is the equivalent of taking two steps forward and three steps backward.

Even if it means enforced humility and enforced study habits.

A Christian must turn themselves toward the WORD of God in a serious fashion.

/[1Ti 6:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ti/6/11/s_1125011) But **flee**(*pheugō*) **from these things**, you man of God, and **pursue** righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, *and* gentleness.

(Pres, Act, Imp,)- the responsibility is on the Believer! To take flight, escape to safety – avoid the danger, vanish! \

FYOU-GO, Pres, Act, Imp- this verb is set in a command form, present tense – keep on doing this!

The active voice points to the Bel’s responsibility.

This is a serious command to take responsibility now and going forward.

You can never grow when you continually allow the OSN’s lust patterns to dictate your life.

[1Ti 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ti/6/12/s_1125012) Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and *for which* you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

To take hold of the eternal life, speaks to walking in your eternal position right now in time.

/Fighting the good fight is understanding the angelic conflict, the power of the WORD and the filling power of the HS. This spiritual fight is predominately fought within the soul structure – thoughts, growth, knowledge (BD) turning into divine wisdom (application). Your OSN is opposed to the plan of GOD, therefore it can never be allowed into the seat of authority.\

/Fighting the good fight is found in the two power options (Filling of HS/Word) habitually applied into the life of a Believer. When a Christian acknowledges and turns from the temptations of the OSN, they find victories that will compound over time into greater strength. God gives us what we need to stand firm against the attacks.\

We are never told to rush out into the world looking to fight Satan.

/1Pet 5:8 **Be of sober *spirit,* be on the alert**. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around **like a roaring lion**, seeking someone to devour. 9 So **resist him, firm in *your* faith,** knowing that the **same experiences of suffering** are being accomplished by your **brothers and sisters who are in the world**.\