

# ***Kingdom***

## ***Exhortations & Warnings***

© 2018 TW Kill, All Rights Reserved

### ***Book of James***



***Basic Christian Information***  
***On Very Important Issues***  
***Beneficial to Success***  
***For The Real Christian Lifestyle***

KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

Table of Contents

**PREFACE** **3**

*About The Author*.....3

*About this Reporter*.....3

*Important Unsavory Issues* .....3

*Why These Versions Were Selected* .....4

*Reason For Report*.....4

*Matthew Henry Commentary Book of James Intro*.....4

Book of James Chapter 1 .....5

*Testing of Your Faith* .....5

*Hearing and Doing the Word* .....7

*Chapter 1 Recap Observations & Practical Values*.....9

Book of James Chapter 2 .....10

*The Sin of Partiality*.....10

*Faith Without Works Is Dead* .....12

*Chapter 2 Recap Observations & Practical Values*.....13

Book of James Chapter 3 .....15

*Taming the Tongue*.....15

*Wisdom from Above*.....16

*Chapter 3 Recap Observations & Practical Values*.....17

Book of James Chapter 4 .....18

*Warning Against Worldliness & Warring*.....18

*Boasting About Tomorrow*.....20

*Chapter 4 Recap Observations & Practical Values*.....21

Book of James Chapter 5 .....23

*Wide Road Warning to the Rich*.....23

*Patience in Suffering* .....24

*The Prayer of Faith*.....25

*Chapter 5 Recap Observations & Practical Values*.....26

Appendix A: Book of James Subjective Commentary .....28

*Overview On Order*.....28

*FIPO*.....28

*Doer Explanation Rationale* .....28

*Three Reasons For Doer Rhetoric* .....29

*Foundational variables to build a backbone faith*.....29

*Sincerity vs. Insincerity* .....30

Appendix B: Subjective Observations of James .....32

*Basic Salvation* .....32

*Wide Road Issues* .....35

*Structures vs. Temples* .....38

**“The LORD is close to all who call on him,  
yes, to all who call on him in truth.  
He grants the desires of those who fear him;  
he hears their cries for help and rescues them.”  
Psalms 145:18-19 NLT**

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

### Preface

Kingdom Exhortations and Warnings is dedicated to my parents, who introduced me to Jesus,  
**"YOU MUST BE A FRIEND TO HAVE A FRIEND"**

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

If Jesus' made it important to visit His own brother, from Heaven, and impress upon James to supply this level of intelligence to His body, I'm thinking this is very important for me to know about as well. Jesus also encouraged Peter, Paul, and John to do the same in their works.

James sends this report to exhort and encourage believers on issues that really need sorting out to enhance their ability to succeed, and stop being deceived. James wants Christians to become aware of these issues and mature in real truth and humility, and to build an unwavering backbone to succeed.

#### ABOUT THIS REPORTER

In 1990 I began to activate my faith with the intent to replicate Jesus' works, which, at that time I had very little knowledge of. Since then I have witnessed hundreds of miracles manifested by Jesus and Holy Spirit. I'm not the original "Mr. Nobody". I'm just one of many who are about our Fathers business, delivering solutions to those assigned to us, and then reporting results to those appreciative.

I'm forwarding to as many who will embrace these simple practices to participate in Jesus' model. Instead of the lecture or conference model, and the endless repetition of denominational rhetoric, I'm relaying real truths downloaded from Holy Spirit, supported by scripture, to connect each to their own personal classroom. In this direct model, btw the same one Jesus used, freedom is retrieved, spirits and souls are edified, and new destinations are begun. Why a Holy Spirit classroom? A personal tutorial for each individual offers as fast or slow of a turn around as you desire. Also instant feedback!

Meditation is a highly touted model today by many experts. I'm taking it up to a marinating level, a deeper intentional time of devotion where Holy Spirit can have His way with us. Marinating is the act of cleansing and preparing something (this time us), by the application of soaking in the Word, led by Holy Spirit with dialogue. As we marinate, the desired exchange is that we identify and overcome any deeper issues, and extract the fruit of the Spirit. Whatever your destination, blessings and success to you!

#### IMPORTANT UNSAVORY ISSUES

James has taken on the task of dealing with unsavory issues that Jesus wanted reported to the church:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. All oppressors are marked by God           | 11. Answers vs. denial of prayer requests           |
| 2. Idolization of earthly treasure is in vain | 12. Doer of Word accurate identification            |
| 3. Real reasons for war and division          | 13. Real retirement is true salvation               |
| 4. Necessity of a heartfelt confession        | 14. God's most valued goals for His children        |
| 5. The temptation-to-death cycle              | 15. Root vs. fruit identification (Faith vs. works) |
| 6. What reveals pure deception?               | 16. Jesus' expectations of His followers            |
| 7. What may expose an ineffectual salvation?  | 17. Strong vs. weak character                       |
| 8. Pandering, profiling, partiality, judgment | 18. The most effective of all reactions             |
| 9. Bad deeds / good deeds dynamics            | 19. All Christians are expected to intervene        |
| 10. God meant for humanity to overcome sin    | 20. How my thoughts and words affect my life        |

I was surprised at the depth of impact James has made on these subjects. He also distinguished the terms doer and doing, in order for saints to acknowledge and activate these, to help fulfill their destiny.

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

### *Why are these called "Work-In-Progress Reports"?*

All humanity, both collectively and individually is a work in progress. Individually we are masterpieces in the making, each of us at our own level, in our own space. Each is important and each gets their very own tutor, Holy Spirit, so be encouraged to hook-up, show-up, and enjoy class time! I always find it fascinating to hear what God is doing with each one, and what solutions God is adding to humanity through us individually to enhance us collectively.

### WHY THESE VERSIONS WERE SELECTED

The English Standard Version (ESV), The Living Bible (TLB), and Matthew Henry Commentary (written in 1706) were chosen because of their ability to relay the message God has given through James. A teacher once recommended to me; "Eat the hay and spit out the sticks". In other words, not everything is going to be for everybody, so take whatever you can, let it nourish you, and pass it on!

### REASON FOR REPORT

Since spending time with Holy Spirit and witnessing the works of Jesus, once I've returned to church service and Bible studies I've witnessed a gap between what is being taught by others and by what was taught to me by Holy Spirit. This sent me back to the Bible to verify and validate what I learned. So I decided to document many of the things Holy Spirit pointed out to me. This report was designed to facilitate growth toward overcoming sin and doing the natural and supernatural works of Jesus. It's not meant for the casual entertainment reader. I hope this process is immediately accretive, and I hope the truths James reported add great benefits to you. I've personally witnessed that there are issues that need to be settled within our heart, which can only be reached and settled by Holy Spirit, and by our intentional effort to slowly meditate on His truth.

### MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY BOOK OF JAMES INTRO

This epistle of James is one of the most instructive writings in the New Testament. **Being chiefly directed against particular errors at that time brought in among the Jewish Christians**, it does not contain the same full doctrinal statements as the other epistles, but it presents an admirable **summary of the practical duties of all believers**. The leading truths of Christianity are set forth throughout; and on attentive consideration, it will be found entirely to agree with St. Paul's statements concerning grace and justification, while it abounds with earnest exhortations to the patience of hope and obedience of faith and love, interspersed with warnings, reproofs, and encouragements, according to the characters addressed. The truths laid down are very serious and necessary to be maintained; and the rules for practice ought to be observed in all times. **In Christ there are no dead and sapless branches, faith is not an idle grace; wherever it is, it brings forth fruit in works.**

**Is it God's will for your good works  
to muzzle the criticism of the foolish?**

**"For it is God's will and intention that by doing right  
[your good and honest lives] should silence (muzzle, gag)  
the ignorant charges and ill-informed criticisms of foolish persons."  
(1 Peter 2:15 AMPC)**

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

### Book of James Chapter 1

#### Pre-chapter Quiz

1. Do you want a strong character and to know what God wants you to do with it? (1-5 TLB)
2. Is instability caused by us, individually? What causes this instability? (6-8)
3. Do requests from the unstable ever receive anything from the Lord? (7)
4. Are Christians rewarded for overcoming temptations? (12)
5. Could or does God ever tempt anyone on sin? (13)
6. How does the temptation-to-death cycle work? (14-15)
7. How quick should our reactions be? (19-21)
8. Is a doer of the word one who uses the Bible to expose and vanquish sin in their life? (22-25)
9. Does an unbridled tongue reveal deception and maybe even an ineffective salvation? (26)
10. Are maintaining moral purity and visiting orphans and widows highly valued by Father God? (27)

#### MHC Chapter Highlights

How to apply to God under troubles, and how to behave in prosperous and in adverse circumstances. (1-11) To look upon all evil as proceeding from ourselves, and all good from God. (12-18) The duty of watching against a rash temper, and of receiving the word of God with meekness. (19-21) And of living according thereto. (22-25) The difference between vain pretences and real religion. (26, 27)

1. James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings. English Standard Version (ESV)

#### TESTING OF YOUR FAITH

2. Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet **trials** of various kinds,
3. for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.
4. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
5. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.
6. But let him ask in faith, with **no doubting**, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.
7. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;
8. he is a **double-minded** man, unstable in all his ways.
9. Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation,
10. and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away.
11. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the **rich man fade away** in the midst of his pursuits. ESV

#### The Living Bible Version (TLB)

1 From: James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.  
To: Jewish Christians scattered everywhere. Greetings!  
2 Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, 3 for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. 4 So let it grow, and don't try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

and complete. **5** If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him, and he will gladly tell you, for he is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask him; he will not resent it. **6** But when you ask him, be sure that you really expect him to tell you, for a doubtful mind will be as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind; **7-8** and every decision you then make will be uncertain, as you turn first this way and then that. If you don't ask with faith, don't expect the Lord to give you any solid answer. **9** **A Christian who doesn't amount to much in this world should be glad, for he is great in the Lord's sight.** **10-11** **But a rich man should be glad that his riches mean nothing to the Lord,** for he will soon be gone, like a flower that has lost its beauty and fades away, withered—killed by the scorching summer sun. So it is with rich men. They will soon die and leave behind all their busy activities. TLB

MHC Verses 1-11 Christianity teaches men to be joyful under troubles: such exercises are sent from God's love; and trials in the way of duty will brighten our graces now, and our crown at last. Let us take care, in times of trial, that patience, and not passion, is set to work in us: whatever is said or done, let patience have the saying and doing of it. **When the work of patience is complete, it will furnish all that is necessary for our Christian race and warfare. We should not pray so much for the removal of affliction, as for wisdom to make a right use of it. And who does not want wisdom to guide him under trials, both in regulating his own spirit, and in managing his affairs?** Here is something in answer to every discouraging turn of the mind, when we go to God under a sense of our own weakness and folly. If, after all, any should say, This may be the case with some, but I fear I shall not succeed, the promise is, To any that asketh, it shall be given. A mind that has single and prevailing regard to its spiritual and eternal interest, and that keeps steady in its purposes for God, will grow wise by afflictions, will continue fervent in devotion, and rise above trials and oppositions. When our faith and spirits rise and fall with second causes, there will be unsteadiness in our words and actions. This may not always expose men to contempt in the world, but such ways cannot please God. No condition of life is such as to hinder rejoicing in God. Those of low degree may rejoice, if they are exalted to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom of God; and the rich may rejoice in humbling providences, that lead to a humble and lowly disposition of mind. **Worldly wealth is a withering thing. Then, let him that is rich rejoice in the grace of God, which makes and keeps him humble; and in the trials and exercises which teach him to seek happiness in and from God, not from perishing enjoyments.**

12. Blessed is the man **who remains steadfast under trial,** for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.
13. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and **he himself tempts no one.**
14. But each person is tempted when he **is lured and enticed by his own desire.**
15. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.
16. Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.
17. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.
18. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures. ESV

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

12 Happy is the man who doesn't give in and do wrong when he is tempted, for afterwards he will get as his reward the crown of life that God has promised those who love him. 13 And remember, when someone wants to do wrong it is never God who is tempting him, for God never wants to do wrong and never tempts anyone else to do it. **14 Temptation is the pull of man's own evil thoughts and wishes. 15 These evil thoughts lead to evil actions and afterwards to the death penalty from God.** 16 So don't be misled, dear brothers. 17 But whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God, the Creator of all light, and he shines forever without change or shadow. 18 And it was a happy day for him when he gave us our new lives through the truth of his Word, and we became, as it were, the first children in his new family. TLB

MHC Verses 12-18 It is not every man who suffers, that is blessed; but he who with patience and constancy goes through all difficulties in the way of duty. Afflictions cannot make us miserable, if it be not our own fault. The tried Christian shall be a crowned one. The crown of life is promised to all who have the love of God reigning in their hearts. Every soul that truly loves God, shall have its trials in this world fully recompensed in that world above, where love is made perfect. The commands of God, and the dealings of his providence, try men's hearts, and show the dispositions which prevail in them. But nothing sinful in the heart or conduct can be ascribed to God. He is not the author of the dross, though his fiery trial exposes it. Those who lay the blame of sin, either upon their constitution, or upon their condition in the world, or pretend they cannot keep from sinning, wrong God as if he were the author of sin. Afflictions, as sent by God, are designed to draw out our graces, but not our corruptions. The origin of evil and temptation is in our own hearts. Stop the beginnings of sin, or all the evils that follow must be wholly charged upon us. God has no pleasure in the death of men, as he has no hand in their sin; but both sin and misery are owing to themselves. As the sun is the same in nature and influences, though the earth and clouds, often coming between, make it seem to us to vary, so God is unchangeable, and our changes and shadows are not from any changes or alterations in him. What the sun is in nature, God is in grace, providence, and glory; and infinitely more. As every good gift is from God, so particularly our being born again, and all its holy, happy consequences come from him. **A true Christian becomes as different a person from what he was before the renewing influences of Divine grace, as if he were formed over again.** We should devote all our faculties to God's service, that we may be a kind of first-fruits of his creatures.

### HEARING AND DOING THE WORD

19. Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be **quick to hear**, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20. for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. 21. Therefore **put away all filthiness** and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. ESV

Dear brothers, **don't ever forget that it is best to listen much, speak little, and not become angry;** 20 for anger doesn't make us good, as God demands that we must be. 21 **So get rid of all that is wrong in your life, both inside and outside,** and humbly be glad for the wonderful message we have received, for it is able to save our souls as it takes hold of our hearts. TLB

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

MHC Verses 19-21 Instead of blaming God under our trials, let us open our ears and hearts to learn what he teaches by them. And if men would govern their tongues, they must govern their passions. The worst thing we can bring to any dispute, is anger. Here is an exhortation to lay apart, and to cast off as a filthy garment, all sinful practices. This must reach to sins of thought and affection, as well as of speech and practice; to everything corrupt and sinful. We must yield ourselves to the word of God, with humble and teachable minds. Being willing to hear of our faults, taking it not only patiently, but thankfully. It is the design of the word of God to make us wise to salvation; and those who propose any mean or low ends in attending upon it, dishonor the gospel, and disappoint their own souls.

22. But be **doers** of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.
23. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror.
24. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.
25. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. ESV

22 And remember, it is a message to obey, not just to listen to. So don't fool yourselves. 23 For if a person just listens and doesn't obey, he is like a man looking at his face in a mirror; 24 as soon as he walks away, he can't see himself anymore or remember what he looks like. 25 But if anyone keeps looking steadily into God's law for free men, he will not only remember it but **he will do what it says, and God will greatly bless him in everything he does.** TLB

MHC Verses 22-25 If we heard a sermon every day of the week, and an angel from heaven were the preacher, yet, if we rested in hearing only, **it would never bring us to heaven.** Mere hearers are self-deceivers; and self-deceit will be found the worst deceit at last. If we flatter ourselves, it is our own fault; the truth, as it is in Jesus, flatters no man. **Let the word of truth be carefully attended to, and it will set before us the corruption of our nature, the disorders of our hearts and lives; and it will tell us plainly what we are.** Our sins are the spots the law discovers: Christ's blood is the laver the gospel shows. But in vain do we hear God's word, and look into the gospel glass, if we go away, and forget our spots, instead of washing them off; and forget our remedy, instead of applying to it. This is the case with those who do not hear the word as they ought. In hearing the word, we look into it for counsel and direction, and when we study it, it turns to our spiritual life. **Those who keep in the law and word of God, are, and shall be, blessed in all their ways.** His gracious recompence hereafter, would be connected with his present peace and comfort. **Every part of Divine revelation has its use, in bringing the sinner to Christ for salvation, and in directing and encouraging him to walk at liberty, by the Spirit of adoption, according to the holy commands of God.** And mark the distinctness, it is not for his deeds, that any man is blessed, but in his deed. **It is not talking, but walking,** that will bring us to heaven. Christ will become more precious to the believer's soul, which by his grace will become more fitted for the inheritance of the saints in light.

26. If anyone thinks he is religious and does not **bridle** his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.
27. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to **visit** orphans and widows in their affliction, and to **keep oneself unstained** from the world. ESV

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

26 Anyone who says he is a Christian but doesn't control his sharp tongue is just fooling himself, and his religion isn't worth much. 27 The Christian who is pure and without fault, from God the Father's point of view, is the one who takes care of orphans and widows, and who remains true to the Lord—**not soiled and dirtied by his contacts with the world.** TLB

MHC Verses 26-27 When men take more pains to seem religious than really to be so, it is a sign their religion is in vain. **The not bridling the tongue, readiness to speak of the faults of others, or to lessen their wisdom and piety, are signs of a vain religion. The man who has a slandering tongue, cannot have a truly humble, gracious heart. False religious may be known by their impurity and uncharitableness.** True religion teaches us to do everything as in the presence of God. An unspotted life must go with unfeigned love and charity. Our true religion is equal to the measure in which these things have place in our hearts and conduct. And let us remember, that nothing avails in Christ Jesus, but faith that worketh by love, purifies the heart, subdues carnal lusts, and obeys God's commands.

### CHAPTER 1 RECAP OBSERVATIONS & PRACTICAL VALUES

1. Knowing your destiny direction and what God wants you to do with it. (1-5 TLB)
2. A strong character is derived from overcoming trials, temptations, symptoms and difficulties (1:2-4 ESV & TLB).
3. Double-mindedness causes instability and failure to receive from God. (1:6-8) Asking and speaking in faith without doubting is key and is also instructed by Jesus in Mark 11:23.
4. Worldly wealth is not valued by God so let the rich be humble, and refrain from perishing enjoyments. (1:9-11 TLB & MHC Verses 1-11)
  - a. A Christian who doesn't amount to much in this world should be glad, for he is great in the Lord's sight. But a rich man should be glad that his riches mean nothing to the Lord, for he will soon be gone, like a flower that has lost its beauty and fades away, withered—killed by the scorching summer sun. So it is with rich men. They will soon die and leave behind all their busy activities. (9-11 TLB)
  - b. Worldly wealth is a withering thing. Then, let him that is rich rejoice in the grace of God, which makes and keeps him humble; and in the trials and exercises which teach him to seek happiness in and from God, not from perishing enjoyments. (MHC)
5. Saints are rewarded by God for overcoming temptation, trials, symptoms, and difficulties. (1:12)
6. Be forewarned that the temptation-to-death cycle is serious. (1:14-15) This is the pull of man's own evil thoughts and wishes that lead to evil actions and afterwards to the death penalty from God.
7. The most effective reactions are quick to hear and slow to speak and anger. (1:19-21)
8. A doer is a saint who looks in the mirror, exposes sin and vanquishes sin in their life. (1:22-25)
9. An unbridled tongue reveals deception and maybe even an ineffective salvation. (1:26)
10. Gods valued goals are maintaining moral purity and visiting orphans and widows. (1:27)

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

### Book of James Chapter 2

#### Pre-chapter Quiz

1. Did James warn us not to engage in the economic, ethnic, or social pandering and profiling? (1-9)
2. Is it identified as a sinful activity when you favor and fawn over the rich? (9 TLB)
3. Will each of us be judged on whether or not we are doing what Christ wants us to do? (12 TLB)
4. Will each of us be judged on what we do and what we think? (12 TLB)
5. Do good deeds atone for our bad deeds and replace Jesus' need for atonement? (See MHC 1-13)
6. If a good deed cancels out the effects of a bad deed then does the good deed carry its own atonement value?
7. Did James compare unproductive faith to an ineffective salvation? (14-17)
8. Is the prayer of faith enough? Is faith completed by works? (22)
9. Does scripture imply people are justified by faith and works and not by faith alone? (24 ESV & TLB)
10. If faith is the root, then is good works the fruit? (MHC Verses 14-26 Highlighted)

#### MHC Chapter Highlights

All professions of faith are vain, if not producing love and justice to others. (1-13) The necessity of good works to prove the sincerity of faith, which otherwise will be of no more advantage than the faith of devils. (14-26)

#### THE SIN OF PARTIALITY

1. My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.
2. For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in,
3. and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet,"
4. have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?
5. Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?
6. But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court?
7. Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?
8. If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.
9. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.
10. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.
11. For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.
12. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty.
13. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.  
ESV

Dear brothers, how can you claim that you belong to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, if you show favoritism to rich people and look down on poor people?

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

<sup>2</sup>If a man comes into your church dressed in expensive clothes and with valuable gold rings on his fingers, and at the same moment another man comes in who is poor and dressed in threadbare clothes, <sup>3</sup>and you make a lot of fuss over the rich man and give him the best seat in the house and say to the poor man, "You can stand over there if you like or else sit on the floor"—well, <sup>4</sup>judging a man by his wealth shows that you are guided by wrong motives.

<sup>5</sup>Listen to me, dear brothers: God has chosen poor people to be rich in faith, and the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs, for that is the gift God has promised to all those who love him. <sup>6</sup>And yet, of the two strangers, you have despised the poor man. Don't you realize that it is usually the rich men who pick on you and drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>And all too often they are the ones who laugh at Jesus Christ, whose noble name you bear.

<sup>8</sup>Yes indeed, it is good when you truly obey our Lord's command, "You must love and help your neighbors just as much as you love and take care of yourself." <sup>9</sup>But you are breaking this law of our Lord's when you favor the rich and fawn over them; it is sin.

<sup>10</sup>And the person who keeps every law of God but makes one little slip is just as guilty as the person who has broken every law there is. <sup>11</sup>For the God who said you must not marry a woman who already has a husband also said you must not murder, so even though you have not broken the marriage laws by committing adultery, but have murdered someone, you have entirely broken God's laws and stand utterly guilty before him.

<sup>12</sup>You will be judged on whether or not you are doing what Christ wants you to. So watch what you do and what you think; <sup>13</sup>for there will be no mercy to those who have shown no mercy. But if you have been merciful, then God's mercy toward you will win out over his judgment against you. TLB

MHC Verses 1-13 Those who profess faith in Christ as the Lord of glory, must not respect persons on account of mere outward circumstances and appearances, in a manner not agreeing with their profession of being disciples of the lowly Jesus. St. James does not here encourage rudeness or disorder: civil respect must be paid; but never such as to influence the proceedings of Christians in disposing of the offices of the church of Christ, or in passing the censures of the church, or in any matter of religion. Questioning ourselves is of great use in every part of the holy life. Let us be more frequent in this, and in everything take occasion to discourse with our souls. As places of worship cannot be built or maintained without expense, it may be proper that those who contribute thereto should be accommodated accordingly; but were all persons more spiritually-minded, the poor would be treated with more attention than usually is the case in worshipping congregations. A lowly state is most favourable for inward peace and for growth in holiness. God would give to all believers riches and honours of this world, if these would do them good, seeing that he has chosen them to be rich in faith, and made them heirs of his kingdom, which he promised to bestow on all who love him. Consider how often riches lead to vice and mischief, and what great reproaches are thrown upon God and religion, by men of wealth, power, and worldly greatness; and it will make this sin appear very sinful and foolish. The Scripture gives as a law, to love our neighbour as ourselves. This law is a royal law, it comes from the King of kings; and if Christians act unjustly, they are convicted by the law as transgressors. **To think that our good deeds will atone for our bad deeds, plainly puts us upon looking for another atonement.** According to the covenant of works, one breach of any one command brings a man under condemnation,

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

from which no obedience, past, present, or future, can deliver him. This shows us the happiness of those that are in Christ. We may serve him without slavish fear. **God's restraints are not a bondage, but our own corruptions are so.** The doom passed upon impenitent sinners at last, will be judgment without mercy. But God deems it his glory and joy, to pardon and bless those who might justly be condemned at his tribunal; and his grace teaches those who partake of his mercy, to copy it in their conduct.

### FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD

14. What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?
15. If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food,
16. and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?
17. So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.
18. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.
19. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe--and shudder!
20. Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?
21. Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?
22. You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;
23. and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"--and he was called a friend of God.
24. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.
25. And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?
26. For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

<sup>14</sup>Dear brothers, what's the use of saying that you have faith and are Christians if you aren't proving it by helping others? Will that kind of faith save anyone? <sup>15</sup>If you have a friend who is in need of food and clothing, <sup>16</sup>and you say to him, "Well, good-bye and God bless you; stay warm and eat hearty," and then don't give him clothes or food, what good does that do?

<sup>17</sup>So you see, it isn't enough just to have faith. You must also do good to prove that you have it. Faith that doesn't show itself by good works is no faith at all—it is dead and useless.

<sup>18</sup>But someone may well argue, "You say the way to God is by faith alone, plus nothing; well, I say that good works are important too, for without good works you can't prove whether you have faith or not; but anyone can see that I have faith by the way I act."

<sup>19</sup>Are there still some among you who hold that "only believing" is enough? Believing in one God? Well, remember that the demons believe this too—so strongly that they tremble in terror! <sup>20</sup>Fool! When will you ever learn that "believing" is useless without *doing* what God wants you to? Faith that does not result in good deeds is not real faith.

<sup>21</sup>Don't you remember that even our father Abraham was declared good because of what he *did* when he was willing to obey God, even if it meant offering his son

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

Isaac to die on the altar? <sup>22</sup>You see, he was trusting God so much that he was willing to do whatever God told him to; his faith was made complete by what he did—by his actions, his good deeds. <sup>23</sup>And so it happened just as the Scriptures say that Abraham trusted God, and the Lord declared him good in God's sight, and he was even called "the friend of God." <sup>24</sup>So you see, a man is saved by what he does, as well as by what he believes.

<sup>25</sup>Rahab, the prostitute, is another example of this. She was saved because of what she did when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. <sup>26</sup>Just as the body is dead when there is no spirit in it, so faith is dead if it is not the kind that results in good deeds. TLB

MHC Verses 14-26 Those are wrong who put a mere notional belief of the gospel for the whole of evangelical religion, as many now do. No doubt, true faith alone, whereby men have part in Christ's righteousness, atonement, and grace, saves their souls; but it produces holy fruits, and is shown to be real by its effect on their works; while mere assent to any form of doctrine, or mere historical belief of any facts, wholly differs from this saving faith. A bare profession may gain the good opinion of pious people; and it may procure, in some cases, worldly good things; but what profit will it be, for any to gain the whole world, and to lose their souls? Can this faith save him? All things should be accounted profitable or unprofitable to us, as they tend to forward or hinder the salvation of our souls. This place of Scripture plainly shows that an opinion, or assent to the gospel, without works, is not faith. There is no way to show we really believe in Christ, but by being diligent in good works, from gospel motives, and for gospel purposes. Men may boast to others, and be conceited of that which they really have not. There is not only to be assent in faith, but consent; not only an assent to the truth of the word, but a consent to take Christ. True believing is not an act of the understanding only, but a work of the whole heart. That a justifying faith cannot be without works, is shown from two examples, Abraham and Rahab. Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness. Faith, producing such works, advanced him to peculiar favours. **We see then, verse 24 , how that by works a man is justified, not by a bare opinion or profession, or believing without obeying; but by having such faith as produces good works.** And to have to deny his own reason, affections, and interests, is an action fit to try a believer. Observe here, the wonderful power of faith in changing sinners. Rahab's conduct proved her faith to be living, or having power; it showed that she believed with her heart, not merely by an assent of the understanding. Let us then take heed, for the best works, without faith, are dead; they want root and principle. By faith anything we do is really good; as done in obedience to God, and aiming at his acceptance: the root is as though it were dead, when there is no fruit. **Faith is the root, good works are the fruits;** and we must see to it that we have both. This is the grace of God wherein we stand, and we should stand to it. There is no middle state. Everyone must either live God's friend, or God's enemy. Living to God, as it is the consequence of faith, which justifies and will save, obliges us to do nothing against him, but everything for him and to him.

### CHAPTER 2 RECAP OBSERVATIONS & PRACTICAL VALUES

1. Profiling and partiality are identified as sin by James here and severely warned against. (2:1-9)
2. People ultimately judge themselves on what they think and they do, and if obedient to Christ. (2:12)
3. Good deeds are good and positive in society, and often well respected by their recipients, however they do not and will never replace the need for Jesus' atonement for salvation purposes. (See highlight MHC 1-13)

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

4. Although Romans 10:9 quotes salvation is facilitated by believing and speaking, James makes it abundantly clear that salvation is validated by doing good works (and not by hearing alone), and brings into focus the status of an unproductive believers "spectator faith" to be compared to an ineffective salvation. (2:14-24 ESV & TLB) The implication from Christ, thru James, is that there is an expectation to produce good fruit.
5. Faith is the root of salvation and works are the fruit of salvation because without works faith is dead, just like without the spirit the body is dead. (2:14-26 ESV, TLB, MHC Verses Highlighted)

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

### Book of James Chapter 3

#### Pre-chapter Quiz

1. Did James warn that teachers would be judged with greater strictness? (1)
2. Can the tongue be used to "rudder" our life, or used to ruin our life? (3-8)
3. Does what you say actually affect the course of your life? (6)
4. Can we silence the tongue with self control, or let it set things on fire around us? (5)
5. Will I use my tongue to bless or to poison others with? (8)
6. Does my tongue expose the content of my heart? (Gospel of Luke 6:45)
7. Is it possible for my tongue to produce both good or bad, or both? (11-12)
8. Does wisdom conduct good works in quiet meekness? (13)
9. Is bitter jealousy and selfish ambition demonic? (14-16)
10. Is wisdom pure, gentle, reasonable, merciful, impartial, sincere, and fruitful? (17)

#### MHC Chapter Highlights

Cautions against proud behaviour, and the mischief of an unruly tongue. (1-12) The excellence of heavenly wisdom, in opposition to that which is worldly. (13-18)

#### TAMING THE TONGUE

1. Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.
2. For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.
3. If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well.
4. Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.
5. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!
6. And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.
7. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind,
8. but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.
9. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.
10. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.
11. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water?
12. Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water. ESV

1-2 Dear brothers, don't be too eager to tell others their faults, for we all make many mistakes; and when we teachers of religion, who should know better, do wrong, our punishment will be greater than it would be for others. If anyone can control his tongue, it proves that he has perfect control over himself in every other way. 3 We can make a large horse turn around and go wherever we want by means of a small bit in his mouth. 4 And a tiny rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot wants it to go, even though the winds are strong.

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

5 So also the tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do. A great forest can be set on fire by one tiny spark. 6 And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is full of wickedness, and poisons every part of the body. And the tongue is set on fire by hell itself and can turn our whole lives into a blazing flame of destruction and disaster. 7 Men have trained, or can train, every kind of animal or bird that lives and every kind of reptile and fish, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is always ready to pour out its deadly poison. 9 Sometimes it praises our heavenly Father, and sometimes it breaks out into curses against men who are made like God. 10 And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Dear brothers, surely this is not right! 11 Does a spring of water bubble out first with fresh water and then with bitter water? 12 Can you pick olives from a fig tree, or figs from a grape vine? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty pool. TLB

MHC Verses 1-12 We are taught to dread an unruly tongue, as one of the greatest evils. The affairs of mankind are thrown into confusion by the tongues of men. Every age of the world, and every condition of life, private or public, affords examples of this. Hell has more to do in promoting the fire of the tongue than men generally think; and whenever men's tongues are employed in sinful ways, they are set on fire of hell. No man can tame the tongue without Divine grace and assistance. The apostle does not represent it as impossible, but as extremely difficult. Other sins decay with age, this many times gets worse; we grow more froward and fretful, as natural strength decays, and the days come on in which we have no pleasure. When other sins are tamed and subdued by the infirmities of age, the spirit often grows more tart, nature being drawn down to the dregs, and the words used become more passionate. That man's tongue confutes itself, which at one time pretends to adore the perfections of God, and to refer all things to him; and at another time condemns even good men, if they do not use the same words and expressions. True religion will not admit of contradictions: how many sins would be prevented, if men would always be consistent! Pious and edifying language is the genuine produce of a sanctified heart; and none who understand Christianity, expect to hear curses, lies, boastings, and revilings from a true believer's mouth, any more than they look for the fruit of one tree from another. But facts prove that more professors succeed in bridling their senses and appetites, than in duly restraining their tongues. Then, depending on Divine grace, let us take heed to bless and curse not; and let us aim to be consistent in our words and actions.

### WISDOM FROM ABOVE

13. Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.
14. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.
15. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.
16. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.  
*"For wherever there is jealousy (envy) and contention (rivalry and selfish ambition), there will also be confusion (unrest, disharmony, rebellion) and all sorts of evil and vile practices." (James 3:16 AMPC)*
17. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.
18. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. ESV

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

13 If you are wise, live a life of steady goodness so that only good deeds will pour forth. And if you don't brag about them, then you will be truly wise! 14 And by all means don't brag about being wise and good if you are bitter and jealous and selfish; that is the worst sort of lie. 15 For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, inspired by the devil. 16 For wherever there is jealousy or selfish ambition, there will be disorder and every other kind of evil. 17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure and full of quiet gentleness. Then it is peace-loving and courteous. It allows discussion and is willing to yield to others; it is full of mercy and good deeds. It is wholehearted and straightforward and sincere. 18 And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness. TLB

MHC Verses 13-18 These verses show the difference between men's pretending to be wise, and their being really so. He who thinks well, or he who talks well, is not wise in the sense of the Scripture, if he does not live and act well. True wisdom may be known by the meekness of the spirit and temper. Those who live in malice, envy, and contention, live in confusion; and are liable to be provoked and hurried to any evil work. Such wisdom comes not down from above, but springs up from earthly principles, acts on earthly motives, and is intent on serving earthly purposes. Those who are lifted up with such wisdom, described by the apostle James, is near to the Christian love, described by the apostle Paul; and both are so described that every man may fully prove the reality of his attainments in them. It has no disguise or deceit. It cannot fall in with those managements the world counts wise, which are crafty and guileful; but it is sincere, and open, and steady, and uniform, and consistent with itself. May the purity, peace, gentleness, teachableness, and mercy shown in all our actions, and the fruits of righteousness abounding in our lives, prove that God has bestowed upon us this excellent gift.

### CHAPTER 3 RECAP OBSERVATIONS & PRACTICAL VALUES

1. James warns EVERYONE that all leadership would be judged with greater strictness. Beware of false and misleading teaching because it carries the consequences of a Matt 7:23 judgment. (3:1)
2. What a person thinks and says actually does have a great effect on their life. In the divine nature, saints exercise self control and perseverance of thoughts, words, and deeds. In doing so, this is what alters the rudder of their life to steer them out of chaos (and closes the access evil door) and into peace, health, and fruitfulness. (3:3-13)
3. True and mature wisdom will conduct good works in quiet meekness, unknown by others, in so doing building treasure in heaven. (3:13 & Matt 6:19-21) Wisdom pure, gentle, reasonable, merciful, impartial, sincere, and fruitful (3:17)
4. Bragging, jealousy, and selfishness are brought into focus as evil demonic traits, and warned against because of the disorder and every other kind of evil they bring to that person. These traits do restrict God's favor as well. (3:14-16)

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

### Book of James Chapter 4

#### Pre-chapter Quiz

1. What causes wars, fights, and quarrels? (1-2)
2. Does God deny your requests because you are selfish? (3)
3. Does rejecting divine nature open a friendship with carnality that identifies us as an enemy of God? (4)
4. Do you think God meant for humanity to actually overcome sin when He sent Holy Spirit? (5)
5. Does God oppose all the prideful and rebellious people? (6)
6. If people resist sin and the devil, will the devil flee from them? (7)
7. If you draw near to God will God draw near to you? (8)
8. Must sin be wept over to demonstrate sorrow to God for His forgiveness? (9 TLB)
9. Do smart people bring God into their planning? (13-16 ESV & TLB)
10. Is knowing what is right to do, and then not doing it, sin? (17 ESV, TLB & MHC)

#### MHC Chapter Highlights

Here are cautions against corrupt affections, and love of this world, which is enmity to God. (1-10) Exhortations to undertake no affairs of life, without constant regard to the will and providence of God. (11-17)

#### WARNING AGAINST WORLDLINESS & WARRING

1. What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this that your passions are at war within you?
2. You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.
3. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.
4. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
5. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"?
6. But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."
7. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
8. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
9. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.
10. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.
11. Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.
12. There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor? ESV

What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Isn't it because there is a whole army of evil desires within you? <sup>2</sup>You want what you don't have, so you kill to get it. You long for what others have, and can't afford it, so you start a fight to take it away from them. And yet the reason you don't have what you want is that you don't ask God for it. <sup>3</sup>And even when you do ask you don't get it because your

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

whole aim is wrong—you want only what will give *you* pleasure. <sup>4</sup>You are like an unfaithful wife who loves her husband's enemies. Don't you realize that making friends with God's enemies—the evil pleasures of this world—makes you an enemy of God? I say it again, that if your aim is to enjoy the evil pleasure of the unsaved world, you cannot also be a friend of God. <sup>5</sup>Or what do you think the Scripture means when it says that the Holy Spirit, whom God has placed within us, watches over us with tender jealousy? <sup>6</sup>But he gives us more and more strength to stand against all such evil longings. As the Scripture says, God gives strength to the humble but sets himself against the proud and haughty. <sup>7</sup>So give yourselves humbly to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>And when you draw close to God, God will draw close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and let your hearts be filled with God alone to make them pure and true to him. <sup>9</sup>Let there be tears for the wrong things you have done. Let there be sorrow and sincere grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. <sup>10</sup>Then when you realize your worthlessness before the Lord, he will lift you up, encourage and help you. <sup>11</sup>Don't criticize and speak evil about each other, dear brothers. If you do, you will be fighting against God's law of loving one another, declaring it is wrong. But your job is not to decide whether this law is right or wrong, but to obey it. <sup>12</sup>Only he who made the law can rightly judge among us. He alone decides to save us or destroy. So what right do you have to judge or criticize others? TLB

MHC Verses 1-10 Since all wars and fightings come from the corruptions of our own hearts, it is right to mortify those lusts that war in the members. Wordly and fleshly lusts are distempers, which will not allow content or satisfaction. Sinful desires and affections stop prayer, and the working of our desires toward God. And let us beware that we do not abuse or misuse the mercies received, by the disposition of the heart when prayers are granted when men ask of God prosperity, they often ask with wrong aims and intentions. If we thus seek the things of this world, it is just in God to deny them. Unbelieving and cold desires beg denials; and we may be sure that when prayers are rather the language of lusts than of graces, they will return empty. Here is a decided warning to avoid all criminal friendships with this world. Worldly-mindedness is enmity to God. An enemy may be reconciled, but "enmity" never can be reconciled. A man may have a large portion in things of this life, and yet be kept in the love of God; but he who sets his heart upon the world, who will conform to it rather than lose its friendship, is an enemy to God. So that anyone who resolves at all events to be upon friendly terms with the world, must be the enemy of God. Did then the Jews, or the loose professors of Christianity, think the Scripture spake in vain against this worldly-mindedness? or does the Holy Spirit who dwells in all Christians, or the new nature which he creates, produce such fruit? Natural corruption shows itself by envying. The spirit of the world teaches us to lay up, or lay out for ourselves, according to our own fancies; God the Holy Spirit teaches us to be willing to do good to all about us, as we are able. The grace of God will correct and cure the spirit by nature in us; and where he gives grace, he gives another spirit than that of the world. The proud resist God: in their understanding they resist the truths of God; in their will they resist the laws of God; in their passions they resist the providence of God; therefore, no wonder that God resists the proud. How wretched the state of those who make God their enemy! God will give more grace to the humble, because they see their need of it, pray for it are thankful for it, and such shall have it. Submit to God . Submit your understanding to the truth of God; submit your wills to the will of his precept, the will of his providence. Submit yourselves to God, for he is ready to do you good. If we yield to temptations, the devil will continually follow us; but if we put on the whole armour of God, and stand out against him, he

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

will leave us. Let sinners then submit to God, and seek his grace and favour; resisting the devil. All sin must be wept over; here, in godly sorrow, or, hereafter, in eternal misery. And the Lord will not refuse to comfort one who really mourns for sin, or to exalt one who humbles himself before him.

### BOASTING ABOUT TOMORROW

13. Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"--
14. yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.
15. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."
16. As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.
17. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. ESV

<sup>13</sup>Look here, you people who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to such and such a town, stay there a year, and open up a profitable business." <sup>14</sup>How do you know what is going to happen tomorrow? For the length of your lives is as uncertain as the morning fog—now you see it; soon it is gone. <sup>15</sup>What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we shall live and do this or that." <sup>16</sup>Otherwise you will be bragging about your own plans, and such self-confidence never pleases God. <sup>17</sup>Remember, too, that knowing what is right to do and then not doing it is sin. TLB

MHC Verses 11-17 Our lips must be governed by the law of kindness, as well as truth and justice. Christians are brethren. And to break God's commands, is to speak evil of them, and to judge them, as if they laid too great a restraint upon us. We have the law of God, which is a rule to all; let us not presume to set up our own notions and opinions as a rule to those about us, and let us be careful that we be not condemned of the Lord. "Go to now," is a call to anyone to consider his conduct as being wrong. How apt worldly and contriving men are to leave God out of their plans! How vain it is to look for anything good without God's blessing and guidance! The frailty, shortness, and uncertainty of life, ought to check the vanity and presumptuous confidence of all projects for futurity. We can fix the hour and minute of the sun's rising and setting to-morrow, but we cannot fix the certain time of a vapour being scattered. So short, unreal, and fading is human life, and all the prosperity or enjoyment that attends it; though bliss or woe for ever must be according to our conduct during this fleeting moment. We are always to depend on the will of God. Our times are not in our own hands, but at the disposal of God. Our heads may be filled with cares and contrivances for ourselves, or our families, or our friends; but Providence often throws our plans into confusion. All we design, and all we do, should be with submissive dependence on God. It is foolish, and it is hurtful, to boast of worldly things and aspiring projects; it will bring great disappointment, and will prove destruction in the end. **Omissions are sins which will be brought into judgment, as well as commissions. He that does not the good he knows should be done, as well as he who does the evil he knows should not be done, will be condemned.** Oh that we were as careful not to omit prayer, and not to neglect to meditate and examine our consciences, as we are not to commit gross outward vices against light!

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

### CHAPTER 4 RECAP OBSERVATIONS & PRACTICAL VALUES

1. Wars, fights, quarrels, division, discord, etc. are caused by the evil carnal nature of each of us when we exercise the temptation-death cycle (James 1:14-15). Collusion is the secret cooperation between people in order to do something illegal or underhanded and is common practice today and openly accepted by humanity, unless one gets caught, then the cover up is spun profusely. Most wars are derived from collusion, if we just take the time to allow for the full truth to reveal itself by following the money. If a person is cooperating with someone to deceive, suppress, or revise truth and influence others deceptively, then they are on the wide road of destruction. Unity is a property of the divine nature and is a magnetic effortless internal response to each other in Christ. If and when people do come into Christ, unity then exerts itself, by itself, not by phony promptings or for public displays. (4:1-2)
2. The Apostle John explains why we do receive from God. It is because we keep His commandments and in so doing our heart is clean and we have confidence before Him (1 John 3:22 & 5:14). On the other hand James is reporting to the saints why they don't receive anything from God. It is because of our selfishness and using God's favor for our own interests and pleasure. So when we are not receiving maybe we should recalibrate our thinking, speaking and doing. If we have eyes to see, it is obvious that the difference between receiving and not receiving is our own awareness, acknowledgment, and activation of Gods truth and values.
3. Sin does sever any man from God, even saints can be severed. There is no eternal tenure in salvation that offsets willful sinning. Do not be deceived about the potential disqualification from God, or being severed from His eternal life in heaven, because of a willful friendship with the evil pleasure of this world. James is reporting to the saints to beware of what makes anyone an enemy of God. The open denial of the divine nature to replace it with carnality identifies us as an enemy of God (see 2 Peter 1:3-15). (4:4)
4. Jesus willingly shed His blood to absorb all sin so Holy Spirit could be released from the sin quarantine He was under, for all humanity to have direct access to God. God really did mean for humanity to actually overcome sin when He sent His very own Holy Spirit to indwell and infill each of us. Jesus even returned to John in Revelation and spoke to the seven churches about OVERCOMING in Revelation 2 and 3. The part of the seeker-sensitive culture within the church that masks itself from the consequences of sin is an enemy of God and needs to get back to holiness. (4:5)
5. God opposes the proud is the most prevalent proverb in humanity. On the other hand God willingly supports, undergirds, and strengthens the humble. Even to the point that whenever we decide to resist temptation, symptoms, and overcome trials and difficulties, God's will is to join our own effort and make the devil flee, along with his demonic effects. Remember that God is absolute and that when we are operating at one with Him, in His divine nature, stumbling and falling is not an option, because as we draw near to God He draws near to us. (4:6-8)
6. Salvation is definitely in the heart of most people, and God KNOWS our heart condition. James is reporting that all sin must be wept over, in a godly sorrow. When we realize our worthlessness before God, then He will lift us up, relieve our delinquency, forgive our sin, and encourage us. Confession of our sin to God or each other is good, but according to James it may be insufficient. (4:9)
7. Personal, business and professional planning and analysis is a major portion of today's activities. In Institutional Investment Management forensic accounting was developed to uncover potential fraud and losses, and is a specialized field. There should also be a forensic exegesis for each saint to enter into to prevent fraud, losses, and misdirection. Real retirement is true salvation, being at one with

## **KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS**

God, and getting the benefits of His depth of omniscience. Yes, stewardship is good, as long as it doesn't replace God's place in your life, and in your future. (13-16 ESV & TLB)

8. Knowing what is right to do and then not doing it is a sin of omission. (17 ESV, TLB & MHC)

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

### Book of James Chapter 5

#### Pre-chapter Quiz

1. Did James warn the rich about the deception of laying up treasures on earth only? (1-3)
2. Did James warn employers about defrauding workers? (4)
3. Did James warn self-indulgent pleasure seekers? (5)
4. Did James warn all humanity against killing the innocent? (6)
5. Does James warn his followers about grumbling, patience, and criticism? (7-9)
6. Did James inform his followers of the patience needed to withstand personal persecution? (10-11)
7. Is there an expectation to intervene for sick and suffering Christians? (13-16)
8. Does James give any example of effective prayer? (17-18)
9. Do we know how effectual our prayers should be, because we are in Christ? (MHC Verses 12-18)
10. Does God reward those who reconcile backsliders and sinners back to Jesus? (19-20)

#### MHC Chapter Highlights

The judgments of God denounced against rich unbelievers. (1-6) Exhortation to patience and meekness under tribulations. (7-11) Cautions against rash swearing Prayer recommended in afflictive and prosperous circumstances, Christians to confess their faults to each other. (12-18) The happiness of being the means of the conversion of a sinner. (19,20)

#### WIDE ROAD WARNING TO THE RICH

1. Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you.
2. Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten.
3. Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days.
4. Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.
5. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.
6. You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you. ESV

Look here, you rich men, now is the time to cry and groan with anguished grief because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you. 2 Your wealth is even now rotting away, and your fine clothes are becoming mere moth-eaten rags. 3 The value of your gold and silver is dropping fast, yet it will stand as evidence against you and eat your flesh like fire. That is what you have stored up for yourselves to receive on that coming day of judgment. 4 For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. Their cries have reached the ears of the Lord of Hosts. 5 You have spent your years here on earth having fun, satisfying your every whim, and now your fat hearts are ready for the slaughter. 6 You have condemned and killed good men who had no power to defend themselves against you. TLB

MHC Verses 1-6 Public troubles are most grievous to those who live in pleasure, and are secure and sensual, though all ranks suffer deeply at such times. All idolized treasures will soon perish, except as

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

they will rise up in judgment against their possessors. Take heed of defrauding and oppressing; and avoid the very appearance of it. God does not forbid us to use lawful pleasures; but to live in pleasure, especially sinful pleasure, is a provoking sin. Is it no harm for people to unfit themselves for minding the concerns of their souls, by indulging bodily appetites? The just may be condemned and killed; but when such suffer by oppressors, this is marked by God. Above all their other crimes, the Jews had condemned and crucified that Just One who had come among them, even Jesus Christ the righteous.

### PATIENCE IN SUFFERING

7. Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.
8. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.
9. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.
10. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.
11. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.
12. But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. ESV

7 Now as for you, dear brothers who are waiting for the Lord's return, be patient, like a farmer who waits until the autumn for his precious harvest to ripen. 8 Yes, be patient. And take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9 Don't grumble about each other, brothers. Are you yourselves above criticism? For see! The great Judge is coming. He is almost here. Let him do whatever criticizing must be done.[a] 10 For examples of patience in suffering, look at the Lord's prophets. 11 We know how happy they are now because they stayed true to him then, even though they suffered greatly for it. Job is an example of a man who continued to trust the Lord in sorrow; from his experiences we can see how the Lord's plan finally ended in good, for he is full of tenderness and mercy. 12 But most of all, dear brothers, do not swear either by heaven or earth or anything else; just say a simple yes or no so that you will not sin and be condemned for it. TLB

MHC Verses 7-11 Consider him that waits for a crop of corn; and will not you wait for a crown of glory? If you should be called to wait longer than the husbandman, is not there something more worth waiting for? In every sense the coming of the Lord drew nigh, and all his people's losses, hardships, and sufferings, would be repaid. Men count time long, because they measure it by their own lives; but all time is as nothing to God; it is as a moment. To short-lived creatures a few years seem an age; but Scripture, measuring all things by the existence of God, reckons thousands of years but so many days. God brought about things in Job's case, so as plainly to prove that he is very pitiful and of tender mercy. This did not appear during his troubles, but was seen in the event, and believers now will find a happy end to their trials. Let us serve our God, and bear our trials, as those who believe that the end will crown all. Our eternal happiness is safe if we trust to him: all else is mere vanity, which soon will be done with forever.

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

### THE PRAYER OF FAITH

13. Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.
14. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.
15. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.
16. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.
17. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.
18. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit. ESV

13 Is anyone among you suffering? He should keep on praying about it. And those who have reason to be thankful should continually be singing praises to the Lord. 14 Is anyone sick? He should call for the elders of the church and they should pray over him and pour a little oil upon him, calling on the Lord to heal him. 15 And their prayer, if offered in faith, will heal him, for the Lord will make him well; and if his sickness was caused by some sin, the Lord will forgive him. 16 Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous man has great power and wonderful results. 17 Elijah was as completely human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for the next three and a half years! 18 Then he prayed again, this time that it would rain, and down it poured, and the grass turned green and the gardens began to grow again. TLB

MHC Verses 12-18 The sin of swearing is condemned; but how many make light of common profane swearing! Such swearing expressly throws contempt upon God's name and authority. This sin brings neither gain, nor pleasure, nor reputation, but is showing enmity to God without occasion and without advantage It shows a man to be an enemy to God, however he pretends to call himself by his name, or sometimes joins in acts of worship. **But the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.** In a day of affliction nothing is more seasonable than prayer. The spirit is then most humble, and the heart is broken and tender. It is necessary to exercise faith and hope under afflictions; and prayer is the appointed means for obtaining and increasing these graces. Observe, that the saving of the sick is not ascribed to the anointing with oil, but to prayer. In a time of sickness it is not cold and formal prayer that is effectual, but the prayer of faith. The great thing we should beg of God for ourselves and others in the time of sickness is, the pardon of sin. Let nothing be done to encourage any to delay, under the mistaken fancy that a confession, a prayer, a minister's absolution and exhortation, or the sacrament, will set all right at last, where the duties of a godly life have been disregarded. To acknowledge our faults to each other, will tend greatly to peace and brotherly love. And when a righteous person, a true believer, justified in Christ, and by his grace walking before God in holy obedience, presents an effectual fervent prayer, wrought in his heart by the power of the Holy Spirit, raising holy affections and believing expectations and so leading earnestly to plead the promises of God at his mercy-seat, it avails much. The power of prayer is proved from the history of Elijah. In prayer we must not look to the merit of man, but to the grace of God. It is not enough to say a prayer, but we must pray in prayer. Thoughts must be fixed, desires must be firm and ardent, and graces exercised. This instance of the power of prayer, encourages every Christian to be earnest in prayer. God never says to any of the seed of Jacob, Seek my

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

face in vain. Where there may not be so much of miracle in God's answering our prayers, yet there may be as much of grace.

19. My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back,
20. let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. ESV

19 Dear brothers, if anyone has slipped away from God and no longer trusts the Lord and someone helps him understand the Truth again, 20 that person who brings him back to God will have saved a wandering soul from death, bringing about the forgiveness of his many sins.

Sincerely, James TLB

MHC Verses 19-20 It is no mark of a wise or holy man, to boast of being free from error, or to refuse to acknowledge an error. And there is some doctrinal mistake at the bottom of every practical mistake. There is no one habitually bad, but upon some bad principle. This is conversion; to turn a sinner from the error of his ways, not merely from one party to another, or from one notion and way of thinking to another. There is no way effectually and finally to hide sin, but forsaking it. Many sins are hindered in the party converted; many also may be so in others whom he may influence. The salvation of one soul is of infinitely greater importance than preserving the lives of multitudes, or promoting the welfare of a whole people. Let us in our several stations keep these things in mind, sparing no pains in God's service, and the event will prove that our labour is not in vain in the Lord. For six thousand years He has been multiplying pardons, and yet his free grace is not tired nor grown weary. Certainly Divine mercy is an ocean that is ever full and ever flowing. May the Lord give us a part in this abundant mercy, through the blood of Christ, and the sanctification of the Spirit.

### CHAPTER 5 RECAP OBSERVATIONS & PRACTICAL VALUES

1. Jesus instructs all about the subject of wealth. **Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for your selves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.** (Matt 6:19-21) This is very clear; however Jesus had to influence James to reiterate it again by nailing down that the rich man will be in anguish who uses his money for self pleasure. MHC reports that those who idolize earthly treasure, and live in pleasure and sensuality, will suffer deeply in judgment. Wealth is not sinful in itself. It is the deviation of its use to personal application that causes eternal failure. (5:1-3, 5)
2. Oppressors are marked by God Himself and the cries of defraud workers does reach God. So woe to anyone who has cheated the worker. (5:4)
3. Exodus 20:13, Matt 5:21, and Romans 13:9 all relate to the commandment of not murdering anyone, especially the innocent. All humanity has been warned about murder and abortion. (5:6)
4. Patience and perseverance are both in the divine nature lines up with the fruit of the spirit and are encouraged. The opposite of these are grumbling and criticism which are warned against. (5:7-9) Jesus did forecast and inform his followers of the patience needed to withstand personal persecution in Matt 10: 24-25. If Jesus was accused of being demonic, His followers will too. (5:10-11)
5. Using God's name in vain by swearing is an open admission to ones identity as a sinner. This is open hostility to God and will be held accountable, so repent and seek forgiveness. (MHC 5:12-18)

## **KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS**

6. There is an expectation from God to intervene for the sick and suffering Christian. All saints should become doers of the Word (overcome sin), then become equipped to replicate the natural and supernatural works of Jesus. (5:13-16) Their prayer should be effective. (5:17-18, MHC 5:12-18)

## Appendix A: Book of James Subjective Commentary

### OVERVIEW ON ORDER

The distinction between doer and doing is that a doer of the Word is one who overcomes sin by allowing for the washing of the Word of God over their lives. Doing references the equipping process to prepare them to participate in doing the works of God. Doing refers to replication the natural and supernatural works of Jesus. Since many have tried to participate in the doing of the greater works of Jesus without becoming a doer of the word first, by overcoming the sin in their life, failure and repercussions ensue. Sidestepping consequences is why I try to prepare and help others to do the same. Hopefully it helps saints to become more successful, if they take things in order. Only in God's methods do things line-up and work for us, for eternal and abundant life purposes.

### FIPO

FIPO; For Internal Purposes Only, is a mechanism to increase the capability of success, due to putting and keeping things in proper perspective and in sequential order (so to speak). Nobody can do what they are not able to do, **so they can't overcome something they are unaware of**, because they never knew to apply these passages. Knowing these scriptures and meanings may prevent mistakes due to attempting something in ministry from an unprepared and unequipped position, or externalizing something that is not settled from an internal perspective. Please take the necessary time to become a doer before you try to jump into doing the works of Jesus. It's really OK to take your time.

### DOER EXPLANATION RATIONALE

Here is sufficient Biblical evidence, clearly stated, demonstrating implications from James. Can we become an overcomer without the Bible exposing our carnal issues? Is going to church and hearing the gospel sufficient to God, for getting to heaven? What is the answer? In merely hearing the gospel, we can become self deceived. Although Romans 10:9 is true, there is additional information that we can benefit from, when we apply it. We need to read and allow the gospel to do what it does, examine us. What do you think being a doer represents here?

The idea of the mirror in James 1:25 is interesting. Looking into a mirror you see yourself. When you study the Bible, its standards reflect who we really are, by comparison, just like a mirror reflects our image. The holiness of the Bible is supposed to expose our personal corruption, pet sins, blockages, and reveal to us why we fail. When the light hits the darkness within us, we see what needs to be addressed. Then we need to be alert enough to see the issues, and be determined enough to vanquish them. **This is the doer part that separates the hearers only.** Doer represents allowing for the word of truth to expose sin and then we intentionally "do" shift our life into becoming an overcomer on each issue. This is the **commitment part of believing.** It seems that only in overcoming are we a doer, building on the rock, not just hearing. Self-examination and sin eradication are very important options to select, and primary stewardship responsibilities for all saints. Jesus did His part and handed each of us the keys to do our own part. Christian duty is a required compulsory moral act or service directed by Jesus and empowered by Holy Spirit. Awareness, acknowledgement, and activation are the three factors to effectiveness.

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

### THREE REASONS FOR DOER RHETORIC

Here are some thoughts and verses to help clarify God's meaning of this subject. The "doer implication" here is to intentionally and privately enter into a place for:

1. **Enlightenment**: examine your life, in compliance with God's moral laws (mirror)
2. **Revelation**: identify all activities, positions, and relationships in conflict with God
3. **Inspiration**: determine and initiate a plan to dissolve conflict and replace it with wisdom

### FOUNDATIONAL VARIABLES TO BUILD A BACKBONE FAITH

The combination of all these scriptures should demonstrate and determine that believers are expected to be doers, NOT JUST SPECTATORS or hearers only. In order to move forward successfully in fulfilling your destiny, these primary items should be studied, and applied. See how these minister to you and how scripture can remove the blockages and bring confidence to our relationship with God.

#### 1. Truth

It was Jesus that taught that when we know the truth, it will set us free (John 8:32) And Jesus is the truth (John 14:6). Since saints are at one with Jesus, these are all applicable.

- **Saints are one spirit with God.** (1 Corinthians 6:17, NASB)
- Jesus offered to both Jews and Gentiles a **one new man model**, Christianity, establishing peace, (Eph 2:14-16)
- There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. **You are all one in Christ** Jesus. (Gal 3:28)

#### 2. Act on it

Jesus said, Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do (washing each other's feet-implies self too) them in John 13:17, Also Matt 7:24

- So everyone who hears these words of mine and **acts upon them** [obeying them] will be like a sensible (prudent, practical, wise) man who built his house upon the rock. (Matt 7:24)

#### 3. Doer vs. Hearer

Another example is where Paul reports that it's not hearers that are righteous, but doers who will be declared righteous in Romans 2:13

- For it is not merely hearing the Law [read] that makes one righteous before God, **but it is the doers** of the Law who will be held **guiltless and acquitted and justified.** (Romans 2:13)

#### 4. Conviction vs. Confidence

John talks about our heart convicting us of sin or our heart confirming confidence of God due to overcoming sin by Holy Spirit (1 John 3:21-22)

- Dear friends, **if we don't feel guilty**, we can come to God with bold confidence. And we will receive from him whatever we ask because we obey him and do the things that please him.
- If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way. For the Scriptures tell us, "Abraham believed God, and **God counted him as righteous because of his faith** (Rom 4:2-3)

#### 5. Implications and Expectations

Are there scriptural implications and expectations to become an over comer? James 1:25, Matt 7:24, Revelation 2-3, 1 Peter 2:21

- It was **Jesus who influenced John to write to the seven churches** with a list of expected overcoming issues that needed to be met. (Revelation 2-3)

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

- **Whoever looks intently at scripture, and abides by it**, not forgetting but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does. (James 1:25 NASB)
- **Whoever hears Jesus' teachings and acts on them** is compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. (Matthew 7:24 NASB)
- "For even to this were you called [it is inseparable from your vocation]. For Christ also suffered for you, **leaving you [His personal] example, so that you should follow in His footsteps.**" (1 Peter 2:21 AMP)

# You Can't Do What You Won't Do!

## SINCERITY VS. INSINCERITY

Did Jesus and Paul warn humanity about the narrow gate passageway and insincerely receiving salvation?

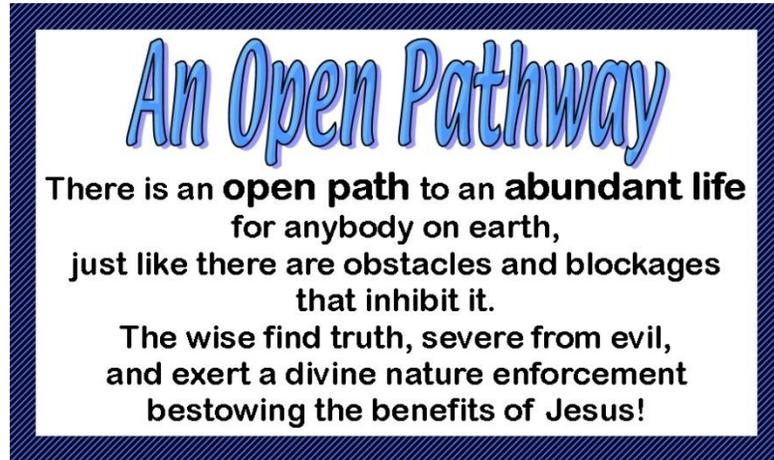
- a. "**Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven**, but he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name and driven out demons in Your name and done many mighty works in Your name? And then I will say to them openly (publicly), I never knew you; **depart from Me, you who act wickedly** [disregarding My commands]. [Ps. 6:8.]" (Matthew 7:21-23 AMP)
- b. "**Then He will say to those at His left hand, Begone from Me, you cursed**, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels! For I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me and entertain Me, I was naked and you did not clothe Me, I was sick and in prison and you did not visit Me with help and ministering care." (Matthew 25:41-43 AMP)
- c. "But He will say, I tell you, I do not know where [what household—certainly not Mine] you come from; **depart from Me, all you wrongdoers!**" (Luke 13:27 AMP)
- d. "But the firm foundation of (laid by) God stands, sure and unshaken, bearing this seal (inscription): **The Lord knows those who are His**, and, Let everyone who names [himself by] the name of the Lord **give up all iniquity and stand aloof from it.** [Num. 16:5; Isa. 26:13.]" (2 Timothy 2:19 AMP)
- e. "LABORING TOGETHER [as God's fellow workers] with Him then, **we beg of you not to receive the grace of God in vain** [that merciful kindness by which God exerts His holy influence on souls and turns them to Christ, keeping and strengthening them—do not receive it to no purpose]." (2 Corinthians 6:1 AMP)

### Additional Narrow Road Commentary

- Those in 7 a, b, and c never became doers, never overcame sin in their life, so self-deceived themselves. So ultimately they failed and came under wrath. They were all in the church and many were actively involved in ministry. This is very important to everyone.
- In 7d, it is declared that Lord knows who are His, and they have confidence because they stand apart from sin and drawn near to God.

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

- In 7e warns that insincere salvations are not beneficial. Up until now, I was unaware of such a thing as an insincere salvation and that somebody could be tricked. But the Apostle Paul makes it very clear, so we should make it our business to pay attention to it.



## Appendix B: Subjective Observations of James

### BASIC SALVATION

#### **Salvation Behavior**

Salvation is definitely in the heart of man, and only God KNOWS our heart condition. James is reporting that all sin must be wept over, in a real godly sorrow, and when we realize our worthlessness before God, He then will lift us up, relieve our delinquency, forgive our sin, and encourage us. Confession of our sin to God or each other is good, but according to James it should be deeply felt.

How are saints supposed to behave in good or adverse circumstances, like under trials? For certain we should know Gods intended rules that would keep us out of darkness and more in alignment to receive His favor. By humbling ourselves we can apply directly to God for help, asking without doubt or without double-mindedness. By drawing near to God he will reciprocate and draw near to us. These are reality truths that we need to have confidence in because of Jesus finished work, not our own accomplishments. Jesus did inform his followers of the patience needed to withstand personal persecution, and He cautioned us to remain steadfast. James discusses how to approach being steadfast by being doers of the word, and not hearers only, and so deceiving ourselves. Put away all filthiness - keep oneself unstained - vanquish Sin. Each has the duty of watching against a rash temper. Overcoming is remaining steadfast under trial and temptation. Do not commit adultery. Do not murder. We are judged on whether or not we are obedient, doing what Christ wants us to think, say, and do.

#### **Salvation Tenure**

Sin does sever any man from God (Isa 59:2). Even saints can be severed. There is no eternal tenure in salvation that offsets willful sinning (Heb 10:29). Do not be deceived about your potential eternal life disqualification from God, because of the willful open practicing of the evil pleasure of this world. James is reporting to the saints to beware of what makes anyone an enemy of God. The open denial of the divine nature, and to replace it with carnality, identifies us as an enemy of God. Do we have Jesus if we deny Holy Spirit (Who is the divinity in the divine nature)? Romans 8:9 reports whoever does not have the Spirit doesn't belong to Christ. The two appear to be inseparable. This reflects on the effects of our personal choices, not the effects of the finished work that Jesus accomplished.

#### **Strong Character**

A strong character is derived from overcoming trials, temptations, symptoms and difficulties. Saints are actually rewarded by God for overcoming all these things that are thrown at us. Knowing our destiny direction and what God wants us do with it are very important. We also know that the most effective reactions are those that are quick to hear and slow to speak and even slower to anger. Not biting on the anger bait dissolves the enemies plan for offense or violence. It also allows for Holy Spirit's entrance into each of these situations. Every saint is tasked with becoming a doer of the Word, looking into the mirror of the Bible and allowing for the scriptures to reflect and expose the active sin in our life, so we can vanquish all of them. This leads directly into God's valued goals for each of us; maintaining moral purity and visiting orphans and widows, and whatever plan God has for us.

#### **Wisdom**

Wisdom is good conduct behavior demonstrating good works. Wisdom also humbles oneself bearing a heartfelt sorrow for any sin to apply for forgiveness. Wisdom brings God into planning and restricts

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

boasting. Wisdom is doing what is right when you know to do it, because denying doing what is right is sin.

True and mature wisdom will conduct good works in quiet meekness, unknown by others, and in so doing, builds treasure in heaven. Heavenly wisdom is pure, gentle, reasonable, merciful, impartial, sincere, and fruitful. What we think and say actually does have a great effect on our life. In the divine nature, saints exercise self control and perseverance of thoughts, words, and deeds. In doing so, this is what alters the rudder of their life to steer them out of chaos, off the wide road, and closes the access evil door, and makes peace, health, and fruitfulness.

### Unity

Unity is a property of the divine nature (the divinity attributes of God flowing through mankind), and is a magnetic, effortless, internal response to each other in Christ. If and when people do come into Christ, the unity then exerts itself, by itself, without need of promptings or significant efforts.

### Faith

Faith and doubt are both the substance of things. Faith is the capital (cash equivalent) of the transactional substance of the kingdom of God. The prayer of faith is enough to seal salvation. Faith is the root of salvation and works are the fruit of our salvation because without works faith is dead, just like without the spirit the body is dead. Although salvation is facilitated by speaking and believing, James makes it abundantly clear that salvation is validated by doing good works (and not by hearing alone). This brings into focus the status of an unproductive spectator faith to be compared to an ineffective salvation. The implication from James is that there is an expectation for saints to produce good fruit, and since Jesus uses fruitfulness to validate salvation, that is really something to pay attention to (Luke 6:44, John 15:4).

There is an expectation to intervene for the sick and suffering Christian and to visit orphans and widows. An example of effective prayer is to confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

### Good Deeds

Good deeds are good and positive in society, and often well respected by their recipients, however they do not and will never replace the need for Jesus' atonement for salvation purposes. People ultimately do wind up judging themselves by what they think, say, and do, and if they are obedient to Christ. Pandering, profiling and partiality are identified as sin by James here and severely warned against.

### Real Christian Wealth

Jesus instructs all about the subject of wealth. **Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for your selves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.** (Matt 6:19-21) **This is very clear; however Jesus had to influence James to reiterate it again by nailing down that the rich man will be in anguish who uses his money for self pleasure.** MHC reports that those who idolize earthly treasure, and live in pleasure and sensuality, will suffer deeply in judgment. Financial wealth is not sinful in itself. It is the deviation of its rightful use and the conversion to a personal carnal application that causes failure and potential kingdom severance. Real Christian wealth is due to storing up for yourselves treasures in heaven.

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

### **Did Jesus implicate an expectation for His followers to overcome sin?**

Jesus willingly shed His blood to absorb all sin so Holy Spirit could be released from the quarantine He was under. Holy Spirit was housed in the Holy of Holies, but now free for all humanity to have a direct access to God, nullifying the mediated version of the clergy system. God really did mean for humanity to actually overcome sin when He sent His very own Spirit to be at ONE with each of us. Holy Spirit can indwell and infill each of us. This is so important that Jesus even returned to John in Revelation and Jesus spoke to the seven churches about OVERCOMING in Revelation 2 and 3. The part of the seeker-sensitive culture within the church that masks itself from the consequences of sin is an enemy of God, and needs to get back to the holiness attributes Jesus delivered. The Apostle John explains why we do receive from God. It is because we keep His commandments and in so doing our heart is clean and we have confidence before Him. On the other hand James is reporting to the saints why they don't receive anything from God. It is because of our selfishness and using God's favor for our own interests and pleasure. So when we are not receiving maybe we should recalibrate our thinking, speaking and doing. If we have eyes to see, it is obvious that the difference between receiving and not receiving is our own awareness, acknowledgment, and activation of God's truth and values.

### **Did Jesus implicate an expectation for His followers to intervene for each other?**

There is an expectation from God for Christians to intervene for each other, especially the sick and suffering fellow Christian. There is an additional expectation for all saints to become doers of the Word by overcoming sin, then becoming equipped to replicate the natural and supernatural works of Jesus. The Bible implies that Christians are expected to, and encouraged to have effective prayer. Patience and perseverance are both in the divine nature and the fruit of the spirit line up, and are encouraged. The opposite of these are grumbling and criticism which are warned against because they lead to dissension. Jesus even forecasted and informed his followers of the patience needed to withstand the personal persecution in Matt 10: 24-25. If Jesus was accused of being demonic, His followers will too.

### **Braggadocio**

Bragging, jealousy, and selfishness are brought into focus as evil demonic traits, and warned against because of the disorder and every other kind of evil they bring to that person. These negative traits do restrict God's favor as well.

There is a big difference in bragging and boasting about what you have witnessed the Lord doing. Testimonials are to be shed about as light into darkness. Testimonial light does diminish darkness and breakthrough to those in need, by helping people to believe so they can receive either salvation or a healing. Testimonials should be used rightly, to help others. Boasting in the Lord is not a bad thing. The one who denigrates testimonials as carnal bragging is deceived.

### **Greater Accountability**

Jesus warns EVERYONE that all leadership and teachers would be judged with greater strictness. So we all need to be knowledgeable of truth and beware of any false and misleading teaching because they carry the consequences of a Matt 7:23 result, WHERE JESUS DOESN'T KNOW THEM.

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

### WIDE ROAD ISSUES

#### **The Tongue**

In bridling the tongue we are quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. Whoever does not bridle his tongue deceives them self. If we don't tame the tongue we're setting on fire the course of our life. James goes on to report that an unbridled tongue reveals very bad deception and maybe even exposes an ineffective salvation.

#### **Temptation**

God really did mean for humanity to actually overcome sin when He sent Holy Spirit to indwell His people. Holy Spirit empowers anyone to awareness, acknowledgment and activation of all truth and to overcome all sin. God can never tempt anyone. In the temptation-to-death cycle people are lured and enticed by their own desires and when they embrace each temptation and acknowledge and activate it, then they give birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown it brings forth death (separation from God). On the other hand when people resist sin and resist the devil's temptations, THEN the devil MUST flee from them, and the effect of sin is nullified because God in us is stronger than the devil! Just say no! Our own desires are the key factor here.

#### **Prayer Request Denials**

God's heart is for all humanity to avoid hell, and to be saved, healed and prospered, and to be with Him (as any parent would). God denies prayer requests because of the blockage of selfishness. You ask and do not receive because you ask wrongly, and to spend it on your passions and pleasures. Also many do not have, because they don't ask, which could be from a lack of confidence or from being under a spirit of guilt and shame. Once these spirits are identified as the blockages, and we realize Jesus overcame both shame and guilt for us to receive all the gifts, the light dissolves the darkness, and Jesus' agape love manifests in their flesh. It is not God that is causing the blockages here, it is the personal choices of each believer.

#### **Worldliness**

God does oppose all the prideful and rebellious people and Jesus warns mankind and the rich about the deception of laying up treasures on earth only because rich men fade away, with the implication that so does their eternal life. Doing with your life and your assets what God wants you to do with them is only between you and God, but Jesus gave some definitive teachings inferring every saint's life and assets are earmarked for God and His directives. That is why knowing Holy Spirit is so important so we can receive an inner witness of confirmation or conflict on issues and direction. This does not mean you don't have autonomy over your assets; it's referring to the importance of having Holy Spirit as a primary source of information and revelation to fulfill each of our earthly destinies before graduation to heaven.

Friendship with carnal worldliness identifies anyone as an enemy of God. Jesus warned the Jewish leadership about false teaching and demonic sinfulness of sheering their sheep and misrepresenting God. In James, James warns employers about defrauding workers, and He warns about self-indulgent pleasure seekers. James warns all humanity against killing the innocent, any innocent, and then He warns Jesus' followers about grumbling, impatience, and criticism. Jesus warns the church to stop swearing and let your "yes" be a yes and no your "no" be a no undergirding Jesus' direct teaching in Matt 5:37.

Worldly wealth is not as valued by God as so many have claimed it to be. Let the rich become humble, refrain from perishing enjoyments, and turn back to God to utilize their assets for Kingdom building. It

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

is double-mindedness that causes instability and failure to receive from God, and why so many prayers are unanswered. Be forewarned that the temptation-to-death cycle is very serious, and carries with it a judgment exercised to each party that engages it.

### **Confrontations**

Once we realize that the causes of almost all the wars, fights, and quarrels are from the evil desires within somebody to produce this wickedness, the sooner we will be closer to overcoming it. If the key factor in the temptation-to-death cycle is "our own desire", then we have to look at ourselves for the causes of wars, fights, and quarrels. Collusion is the secret cooperation between people in order to do something illegal or underhanded and is common practice today and openly accepted by humanity, unless one gets caught. We see the press, agents and lobbyists, and those caught, to have deployed cover-up and spinning techniques to blame shift and conceal the truth. Much of war is derived from collusion, if we take the time to allow for the full truth to reveal itself (just follow the money). People cooperating to deceive, suppress, or revise truth and influence are on the wide road of destruction. Knowing what is right to do and then not doing it is still a sin of omission, as opposed to collusion which is a sin of commission.

Bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your own heart should be a red flag, will produce evil, wickedness, war etc. Here again is another example of "our own desire factor". All political correctness, on both sides, *to polarize society*, is in direct confrontation with the unity that Jesus supplied mankind with on Calvary. Real Christianity produces civic unity, solutions, and coalitions to strengthen all people. Again, taking sides, in the "hatred wars" is in opposition of Jesus command to love each other and help each other. One more thing, a unified electorate cannot be manipulated, misled, extorted, or abused. Those who are demonstrating divisiveness are admitting that they are "chumps"!

KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

The Dirty Dozen

**Potholes By Categories**

✓ **Check The Boxes!**

1st Checkmark is to recognize & realize that none of these are active within me.

2nd Checkmark is to know they have no effect on me because Satan's got nothing in me!

1) <b>Adultery</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6) <b>Deny Jesus &amp; Holy Spirit</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a) lust	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a) discredit gifts/Holy Spirit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) orgies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7) <b>Evil thoughts, words, deeds</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) fornication	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a) slander	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) homosexuality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) back-stabbers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) lewdness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) unrighteousness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2) <b>Anger</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	d) doubters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a) rage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8) <b>Foulmouthed</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) murder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a) gossips	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) malice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) revilers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3) <b>Arrogance</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) mockers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a) Insolent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9) <b>Haters of God &amp; man</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) rude	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a) idolaters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) disrespectful	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) hypocrites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4) <b>Cheats</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) unloving	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a) greedy graspers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) unmerciful	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) robbers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10) <b>Impure-unclean</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) extortionist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a) filthy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) swindlers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) immoral	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) theft, thieves	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) disobedient to parents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) untrustworthy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11) <b>Selfish ambition</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5) <b>Deceit</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a) boastful	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a) discord, dissenter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) gluttony	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) strife, factions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) drunkards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) envy, jealousy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12) <b>Witchcraft</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) lie, false teaching	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a) wickedness,	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) mislead	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) debauchery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Items are listed to help people AVOID what has been biblically declared to OFFEND God.**

**To position oneself for GOD'S FAVOR, becoming aware of and avoiding these is EFFECTIVE!**

## Potholes & Black Holes Have Consequences!

Although this is not a PC acceptable document to publish in today's environment, by acknowledging these I am attempting to inform those who need to see these to avoid a permanent severance from God.

"Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God.

If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant."

Galatians 1:10 NLT

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

### **Oppressors**

Using God's name in vain by swearing is an open admission to one's identity as a sinner. This is open hostility to God and will be held accountable, so repent and seek forgiveness. Oppressors are marked by God Himself. The cries of the defrauded workers do reach God. So let this be a warning to anyone who cheats a worker. Their epitaph is fatal. All humanity has been warned about murder and abortion. Exodus 20:13, Matt 5:21, and Romans 13:9 all relate to the commandment of not murdering anyone, especially the innocent.

### STRUCTURES VS. TEMPLES

If traditional churches cannot be built or maintained without significant effort and expense, how much more should saints apply effort and expense to building and maintaining themselves, as God's real temples? Tutored saints, in divine teaching, acquaint themselves with scripture, to discern between true and false doctrine. It takes very intentional effort and focus to submit yourself to God, confess your sins in sorrow, persevere in changing your thinking, to be able to break out of a carnal existence and cross over to the divine nature threshold, and to live on a new benchmark.

### **HOW MUCH MORE SHOULD SAINTS APPLY EFFORT AND EXPENSE TO BUILDING AND MAINTAINING THEMSELVES, AS GOD'S REAL TEMPLES?**

### **Breakthroughs**

We need to settle something now. God does not restrain anyone or cause blockages or bondages. It is our own corruptions that need to be overcome in order for the breakthroughs to upgrade us to new benchmarks. We're not talking about eternal life here, but abundant life, a Zöe Life breakthrough. By implication, from Jesus, if we are going to partake of His mercy, then we need to partake of His cross too. Since, at the cross Jesus absorbed all sin and its effects on His followers, saints are tasked to do the same, vanquish sin within their own temple. This is an adoption standard expectation.

### **Blockages**

There are two blockages to breakthrough; 1) the flesh and 2) the will. Breaking through the "flesh ceiling" comes with pressing through the flesh (obstacles) and the will (resistance). Breakthrough requires intentional effort, and just like athletes, we need to train, equip, focus, and practice. Much biblical text has "deeper meaning", and I find that I really have to focus and reread it, in order for it to have any affect. Reading is one thing, but retention is another. I think it's the focusing and staying on each truth that marinates it slowly into our spirit. Building spiritual esteem is not easy, nor is it cheap. It costs us time and effort, and it is part of the acknowledgment growth process.

### **Four factors of effectiveness**

But ultimately there are four factors that lead to effectiveness:

1. The purity of truth is the basis for everything
2. It is truth that accentuates knowledge
3. It is knowledge that builds belief
4. It is our belief that bestows the substance of impacting and imparting faith

### **Missing It Altogether**

Miracles, signs, wonders, healing, deliverances, salvations, and spiritual stirring are all the result of the substance of faith. One person plants seed, another person waters, and God makes them all grow. The real miracle is realizing how patient God is to wait for us to exert authority for Him to empower it. His patients with humanity is amazing! When we get to heaven and St. Peter plays the video of our life we

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

will then see all the sovereign miracles **God had to do** because we did not pay attention to the opportunities abounding about us or that we were just too blind, deaf, and feeble.

There is a kingdom cultural mindset to embrace the positive, the possibilities, the unknown prosperous creativity around the corner, even in the face of adversity and obstacles. **Blockages** are very real, but are they imminent? Blockages are always temporary. Do any of these blockages effect God? No, they do not, because He is absolute! He has been very patient with His saints to figure out the truth that, in Christ, we are also in God, and share much of His very own divine nature! Once we understand and internalize this, the purity of God's persona can become more evident, and we can impart it to others. We are over comers, with eyes to see and ears to hear, joining into the kingdom winning strategy at each moment.

Every **obstacle and blockage** represents an opportunity to demonstrate the overriding nature of God in each circumstance. **Obstacles may only be a sign of an eminent upgrade and breakthrough, leading to a new benchmark.** What is it that God is trying to show me in my current personal circumstance or assignment? Do I really have ears to hear Him? Holy Spirit is here to disclose and transmit every winning strategy, direction and victory (John 16:15). Holy Spirit will answer every question and guide the solution to each circumstance and even intervene in many involvements; emergencies, warnings, rescues, direction, etc.

Negativity, whining, doubts, disbelief and dissension are signs of the carnal nature which is in conflict with the divine nature. When we know God is absolute and stay on the narrow road, a continuous unfolding of His agape love and Zöe life continues to benefit believers and those within their influence.

Crossing over from ineffective to effective has various thresholds depending on the activity or sector. Within the Christian life style, crossing over factors are belief and faith. Since moral purity is imputed to us by Jesus, it's never anything we earn. But if we lose our purity, it's based on our own thoughts, words, and deeds. Since salvation doesn't come with tenure, we need to maintain our narrow road status, and sometimes recalibrate our lifestyle to accommodate kingdom standards. That said, belief and faith are both spiritual substances that need honing. Doubt and deception are the potholes and blockages that can cripple faith, so be aware of this.

### **Regeneration & Renewal Process**

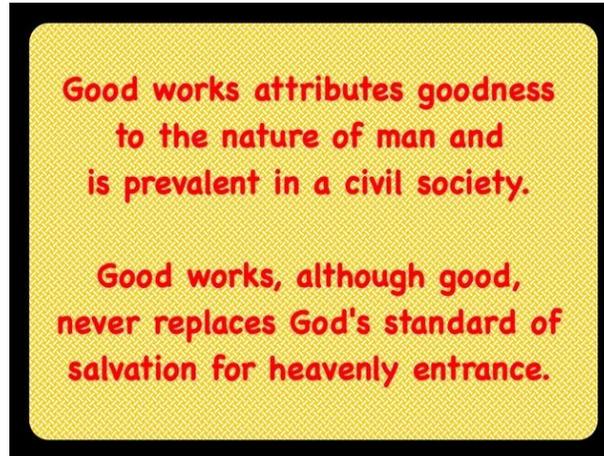
The time taken to meditate truly has the ability to marinate deeply into our mind and spirit, to relieve us of any blockages and help us grow, if and when we are attentive with application. Even though we are Brand New Creations in Christ, as saints, regeneration is the personal effort exerted to mortify carnality, edify our divine nature, in order for our body and mind to catch up with the salvation standard Jesus imputed to us.

Regeneration is shown in righteousness (1 Jn 2:29–3:10), and righteousness is manifested in love (1 Jn 3:10–23). The practical expression of love results in assurance before God and answered prayers because the believer is walking in God's commandments to believe in Christ and love one another. Daily, worldly cares, problems, situations and interests can lead us away from God's light, love and life. Daily review of God's Word guarantees regeneration of God's light, love and life. *“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.” Rom 10:17.*

Regeneration defined: To reform spiritually or morally, to form, construct, or create a new, to give new life or energy to; revitalize, to undergo spiritual conversion or rebirth; reform.

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

It has been reported widely that for new knowledge to take effect, multiple impressions, repeated review and meditation are required. First review of data has 10% retention, second review can earn 30% retention and a third review can earn up to 80% retention. Note that God's fourth pillar of Divine Nature is perseverance; "and in your self-control, perseverance". (2 Peter 1:6)



### **The Pluses & Minuses of “Humanitarian” Good Works**

Since all mankind is created by God and their lives are individually sustained by God, so many have turned to "good works". Good works are a Godly attribute in the nature of man, and is prevalent in a civil society. Notice that a society without good works is considered uncivilized.

When humanity "parades" their good works publicly, as a basis to pivot and revise righteousness standards, to their own liberal standards, it is pure foolishness. Technically these are good people, their good works speak for themselves. But they suffer under the very liberal philosophy that humanitarian good works have a positive ETERNAL LIFE effect, *BECAUSE THEY SAY SO!* Doing good works doesn't earn heavenly entrance. Some have used doing good works to create a platform to revise moral standards to carnal and perverse standards, in foolishness. Many have a heart for humanity and for society to flourish, and that is good. It is true that the recipients are blessed, and the foundation funding source is publicly heralded. So all seems right, correct? No! Whoever replaced the eternal life gospel heavenly entrance threshold of salvation with good works?

Godly testimonials always recognize Jesus as the source, and are meant to build faith in people toward God, and His ways, so they can increase their receptivity. Humanitarian testimonials recognize the foundation or the donator and glorify them (which is their choice, although many have turned to anonymous donations). Good works done in Christ will grow legs, build spiritual dynamics, and can extend infinitely. There are 6 basic works Jesus outlines in Matt 25 that separate the sheep from the goats, very simple and yet they affect others greatly. To some degree, whoever gets glorified by the message signifies if it is Christian or not. The reason the world rejects Christ-centered testimonials is because they are not in Christ. The true reason Christians relay these messages is so our friends, family, personal affiliates and spheres of influence don't miss salvation.

## KINGDOM EXHORTATIONS & WARNINGS

What is the big difference here? Let's look at and evaluate some factual realities:

1. Good works, although good, **never replaces God's standard** of His Son's finished work for heavenly entrance
2. Letting your light shine, in your good works, in Christ, **glorifies God alone**, never humanity
3. Doing good works in secret **builds treasure in heaven** - very wise
4. Publicly parading good works **denies treasure in heaven** - never wise
5. Using good works to establish alternative standards to God's moral standards is **misleading and sinful, also foolish and futile**

