

TODAY'S LESSON

““WISDOM FROM ABOVE”

(James 3:13-18)

By James Hamilton



*Sunday evening lesson live stream
4:00 PM CDT June 30, 2024*



WISDOM FROM ABOVE

THE EPISTLE OF JAMES

Which James?

Not I

Not James Randolph

James Bar Zebadiah? **Matt. 10:2; Acts 12:1**

James Bar Alphaios? **Mark 15:40**

James brother of Jesus? **Distinct from 11 named apostles in Acts 1:14; included among apostles in Galatians 1:19**

James, of God and Lord Jesus Christ, a slave

To The Twelve Tribes of the Diaspora **John 7:35**

James 1

Introduction to major themes in epistle

v.2-4 reaction to trials

v.5-8 acceptable prayer

v.1:9-11 classism

v.12-18 reaction to temptation

v.19-21 attitude to receive the word

v.22-25 application of the word

v.26-27 false religion vs. true religion

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James 1:2-4

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, **3** knowing that the **testing of your faith produces patience.** **4** But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

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James 1:5-8

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him **ask God**, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. **6** But let him **ask in faith**, with **no doubting**, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. **7** For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; **8** he is a **double-minded man**, unstable in all his ways.

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James 1:9-11

9 Let the **lowly brother** **glory in his exaltation**, **10** but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. **11** For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.

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James 1:12-18

12 Blessed is the man who **endures temptation**; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

James 1:12-18

15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, **brings forth** death.

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. **17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. **18** Of His own will He **brought us forth** by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

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James 1:19-21

19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; **20** for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

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4:1-12**

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James 1:22-25

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 observing his natural face in a mirror; **24** for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. **25** But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

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v.22-25 application of the word ZEAL 2:14-26; 4:13-17

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James 1:26-27

26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. **27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father** is this: to **visit** orphans and widows in their trouble, and to **keep** oneself **unspotted** from the world.

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The Double-Minded Man

Introduced in **1:8**

Prays but does not expect **God to respond** **1:6-8**

Acknowledges God but **blames God for temptations**
1:13-21

Hears the word but does not do it **1:22-25**

Religious but doesn't control his speech **1:26**

Worships God but **judges his brother** **2:1-13**

Claims he has faith without **works** **2:14-26**

The Double-Minded Man

Blesses God but curses men 3:1-12

Seeks honor without responsibility 3:13-18

Prays but doesn't receive 4:1-12; 1:5-8

Wants friendship with God and the world 4:4

Knows to do good but does not do it 4:13-17

Persecuted by the rich but wants to be rich and be friends with the rich 5:1-6

Simple Outline of James

- **Greeting 1:1**

- I. **Introduction to Themes in James 1:2-27**

- II. **A Perfect Man Vs. A Double-Minded Man 2:1-5:6**

- III. **Applications of Spiritual Wisdom 5:7-20**

WISDOM FROM ABOVE

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- I. Portraits of Spiritual Wisdom 1:2-27**

- II. A Perfect Man Vs. A Double-Minded Man 2:1-5:6**

- I' Applications of Spiritual Wisdom 5:7-20**

Portraits of Spiritual Wisdom

1:2-27

- A. Wisdom has perspective to **be patient** **1:2-4**
- B. Wisdom must be diligently sought by **obedient faith** **1:5-8**
- C. Wisdom has an **accurate perspective of self and others** **1:9-11**
- D. Wisdom **avoids** yielding to **temptation** **1:12-15**
- E. Wisdom **honors God** for everything good in life **1:16-18**
- F. Wisdom is **slow** to **wrath** and **does not speak hastily** **1:19-21**
- G. Wisdom **follows** God's perfect law of liberty **1:22-25**
- H. Wisdom **realizes** and **practices pure service to God** **1:26-27**

A Perfect Man vs. a Double-Minded Man

2:1-5:7

A. Rich and Poor 2:1-13

B. Faith and Works 2:14-26

C. Blessing and Cursing 3:1-12

D. Wisdom from Above 3:13-18

C' Blessing and Cursing 4:1-12

B' Faith and Works 4:13-17

A' Rich and Poor 5:1-6

Applications of Spiritual Wisdom

5:1-6

A. Wisdom **endures** and **keeps** one's soul **5:7-12** (see **Luke 21:19**)

B. Wisdom **helps** needy souls spiritually, emotionally, socially, and physically **5:13-18**

C. Wisdom **wins** lost souls **5:19-20** (see **Proverbs 11:30**)

James 5:19-20

19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, **20** let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will **save** a **soul** from **death** and cover a multitude of sins.

Gal. 6:1; Acts 8:23-24; 2 Cor. 13:5; 1 John 1:8-10

Luke 19:10; 24:47; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38

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