BIBLE STUDY NOTES

The Letter of James

Large Print Edition

Hollis McGehee

Aiming For Jesus · aimingforjesus.com

Every Scripture reference in blue is a link. Tap or click it to read the passage in the ESV on our website, then come back.

The Letter of James

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study

Index

How to get around

- Tap any item below to go straight to it.
- Tap **“Read …”** to read the Scripture (ESV) on our website.
- Tap ↑ **Index** at the end of each section to come back here.

Front pages

About the Letter

Information for the Whole Letter

How Each Verse Is Laid Out

James Information Sheet

Hollis’ Breakdown of Scripture — Chapter 1 · Chapter 2 · Chapter 3 · Chapter 4 · Chapter 5

Sources and Credits

Chapter 1

Chapter overview · Reflection questions

1:1 1:2 1:3 1:4 1:5 1:6 1:7 1:8 1:9
1:10 1:11 1:12 1:13 1:14 1:15 1:16 1:17
1:18 1:19 1:20 1:21 1:22 1:23 1:24 1:25
1:26 1:27

Chapter 2

Chapter overview · Reflection questions

2:1 2:2 2:3 2:4 2:5 2:6 2:7 2:8 2:9
2:10 2:11 2:12 2:13 2:14 2:15 2:16 2:17
2:18 2:19 2:20 2:21 2:22 2:23 2:24 2:25
2:26

Chapter 3

Chapter overview · Reflection questions

3:1 3:2 3:3 3:4 3:5 3:6 3:7 3:8 3:9
3:10 3:11 3:12 3:13 3:14 3:15 3:16 3:17
3:18

Chapter 4

Chapter overview · Reflection questions

4:1 4:2 4:3 4:4 4:5 4:6 4:7 4:8 4:9
4:10 4:11 4:12 4:13 4:14 4:15 4:16 4:17

Chapter 5

Chapter overview · Reflection questions

5:1 5:2 5:3 5:4 5:5 5:6 5:7 5:8 5:9
5:10 5:11 5:12 5:13 5:14 5:15 5:16 5:17
5:18 5:19 5:20

About the Letter

Writer

In the letter's own words, James 1:1, the writer is "a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ." The letter does not say which James. It is generally recognized as James the brother of the Lord (Galatians 1:19), who led the church in Jerusalem (Acts 15:13 Acts 21:18 Galatians 2:9).

What Scripture says about this James

Named among Jesus' brothers (Matthew 13:55 Mark 6:3). His brothers did not at first believe in Him (John 7:5). The risen Lord appeared to James (1 Corinthians 15:7).

When written

Not stated in the letter. It is generally dated between the mid-40s and about A.D. 60, before James's death around A.D. 62, which the Jewish historian Josephus records (*Antiquities* 20.9.1). Many hold it to be one of the earliest New Testament letters.

Where written

Not stated in the letter. It is generally held to have been written from Jerusalem, where James led the church.

Written to

"The twelve tribes in the Dispersion" (James 1:1). This is generally understood to mean Jewish believers scattered outside the land of Israel. Compare Acts 8:1 and Acts 11:19.

↑ Index

Information for the Whole Letter

Tap any reference to read the verse.

People named

- **Jesus Christ:** James 1:1 James 2:1 James 5:8
- **God the Father:** James 1:17 James 1:27 James 3:9
- **Abraham:** James 2:21 James 2:23
- **Isaac:** James 2:21

- **Rahab:** James 2:25
- **Job:** James 5:11
- **Elijah:** James 5:17 James 5:18
- **The devil:** James 4:7

Groups named

- **The twelve tribes:** James 1:1
- **Brothers:** James 1:2
- **Orphans and widows:** James 1:27
- **The poor:** James 2:5
- **Demons:** James 2:19
- **Teachers:** James 3:1
- **The rich:** James 5:1
- **Laborers and harvesters:** James 5:4
- **The farmer:** James 5:7
- **The prophets:** James 5:10
- **The elders of the church:** James 5:14

Events mentioned

- **Abraham offered up Isaac on the altar:** James 2:21
- **Abraham believed God:** James 2:23
- **Rahab received the messengers:** James 2:25
- **The steadfastness of Job:** James 5:11

- **Elijah prayed that it might not rain:** James 5:17
- **Elijah prayed again for rain:** James 5:18

Old Testament Scripture quoted

- James 2:8 quotes Leviticus 19:18
- James 2:11 quotes Exodus 20:14
- James 2:11 quotes Exodus 20:13
- James 2:23 quotes Genesis 15:6
- James 4:6 quotes Proverbs 3:34

↑ Index

How Each Verse Is Laid Out

- **Read buttons** open the verse in the ESV. Links to the Amplified (AMP) and New Living Translation (NLT) open on Bible Gateway.
- **Greek Words:** key words in the original, with Strong's number and meaning.
- **Cross References:** two related passages to read.
- **In This Verse:** the commands, warnings, promises and other plain statements found in the verse (from the James Information Sheet).
- **From the Theologians:** a quotation, only where one speaks directly to the verse.

- **Commentary:** Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary.

A word about the commentary

> Commentary offered not as authoritative but as a view of the verse drawn from the scriptures presented, other scriptures, and various commentaries. If these thoughts do not line up with the Word then they must be rejected. It is my belief and prayer they are consistent with the Word and are offered as a simple teaching on the Word and as every teaching on the Word each must be carefully compared with the one true and living Word of God.

↑ Index

James Chapter 1

Read all of James 1 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗ Blue Letter Bible ↗

↑ Index

James 1:1

Read James 1:1 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **δοῦλος** (doulos) — Strong's G1401 — "a slave"
- **διασπορά** (diaspora) — Strong's G1290 — "a dispersion"

Cross References

- Read Galatians 1:19
- Read 1 Peter 1:1

↑ Index

James 1:2

Read James 1:2 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **χαρά** (chara) — Strong's G5479 — "joy, delight"
- **πειρασμός** (peirasmos) — Strong's G3986 — "a trial, of ethical purpose and effect, whether good or evil"

Cross References

- Read 1 Peter 1:6
- Read Matthew 5:11-12

In This Verse

Command

From the Theologians

> "count it all joy – Which is the highest degree of patience, and contains all the rest."
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 1:2

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 1:2

↑ Index

James 1:3

Read James 1:3 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **δοκίμιον** (dokimion) — Strong's G1383 — "a test"
- **ὑπομονή** (hupomonē) — Strong's G5281 — "patient enduring, endurance"

Cross References

- Read Romans 5:3-4
- Read 1 Peter 1:7

In This Verse

Plain statement

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 1:3

↑ Index

James 1:4

Read James 1:4 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **τέλειος** (teleios) — Strong's G5046 — "having reached its end, finished, mature, complete, perfect"
- **ὁλόκληρος** (holoklēros) — Strong's G3648 — "complete, entire"

Cross References

- Read Colossians 4:12
- Read Matthew 5:48

In This Verse

Command Promise

Commentary

When the work of patience is complete, it will furnish all that is necessary for our Christian race and warfare.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 1:4

↑ Index

James 1:5

Read James 1:5 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **σοφία** (sophia) — Strong's G4678 — "skill, intelligence, wisdom"
- **ἁπλῶς** (haplōs) — Strong's G574 — "simply, sincerely, graciously"

Cross References

- Read Proverbs 2:6
- Read Matthew 7:7

In This Verse

Command Promise About God

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 1:5

↑ Index

James 1:6

Read James 1:6 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **διακρίνω** (diakrinō) — Strong's G1252 — "to be divided in one's mind, to hesitate, doubt"
- **κλύδων** (kludōn) — Strong's G2830 — "a billow, surge"

Cross References

- Read Mark 11:24
- Read Matthew 21:21

In This Verse

Command Word picture

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 1:6

↑ Index

James 1:7

Read James 1:7 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **οἴομαι** (oiomai) — Strong's G3633 — "to suppose, expect, imagine"

Cross References

- Read Hebrews 11:6
- Read Hebrews 10:23

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition

↑ Index

James 1:8

Read James 1:8 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **δίψυχος** (dipsuchos) — Strong's G1374 — "of two minds, wavering"
- **ἀκατάστατος** (akatastatos) — Strong's G182 — "unsettled, unstable"

Cross References

- Read 1 Kings 18:21

- Read Psalm 86:11

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition

From the Theologians

> "A doubleminded man – Who has, as it were, two souls; whose heart is not simply given up to God."
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 1:8

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 1:7-8

↑ Index

James 1:9

Read James 1:9 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ταπεινός** (tapeinos) — Strong's G5011 — "lowly, of low degree, brought low"

- **καυχάομαι** (kauchaomai) — Strong's G2744 — "to boast or glory"

Cross References

- Read Luke 1:52
- Read James 2:5

In This Verse

Command

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 1:9-10

↑ Index

James 1:10

Read James 1:10 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ταπείνωσις** (tapeinōsis) — Strong's G5014 — "abasement, humiliation, low estate"

Cross References

- Read Isaiah 40:6-8
- Read 1 Peter 1:24

In This Verse

Command | Word picture

↑ Index

James 1:11

Read James 1:11 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **καύσων** (kausōn) — Strong's G2742 — "burning heat"
- **μαραίνω** (marainō) — Strong's G3133 — "of the withering of flowers and herbage"

Cross References

- Read Psalm 103:15-16
- Read 1 Timothy 6:17

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 1:10-11

↑ Index

James 1:12

Read James 1:12 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **μακάριος** (makarios) — Strong's G3107 — "blessed, happy"
- **στέφανος** (stephanos) — Strong's G4735 — "a crown, i.e. the wreath, garland or chaplet given as a prize for victory"

Cross References

- Read Revelation 2:10
- Read 2 Timothy 4:8

In This Verse

Promise

From the Theologians

> "And his enduring proves his love. For it is love only that endureth all things."

> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 1:12

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 1:12

↑ Index

James 1:13

Read James 1:13 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ἀπείραστος** (apeirastos) — Strong's G551 — "untempted, untried, without experience"

Cross References

- Read 1 John 1:5
- Read 1 Corinthians 10:13

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition | About God

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 1:13

↑ Index

James 1:14

Read James 1:14 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ἐπιθυμία** (epithumia) — Strong's G1939 — "desire, longing"
- **δελεάζω** (deleazō) — Strong's G1185 — "to allure by a bait: metaphorically, to allure, entice"

Cross References

- Read Genesis 3:6

- Read Mark 7:21-23

In This Verse

Plain statement

From the Theologians

> “We are therefore to look for the cause of every sin, in, not out of ourselves.”
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 1:14

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 1:14

↑ Index

James 1:15

Read James 1:15 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **συλλαμβάνω** (sullambanō) — Strong’s G4815 — “Of a woman, to conceive”
- **ἀποτελέω** (apoteleō) — Strong’s G658 — “to bring to an end, complete, accomplish”

Cross References

- Read Romans 6:23
- Read Genesis 4:7

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition | Plain statement

From the Theologians

> “Sin is born big with death.”
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 1:15

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 1:15

↑ Index

James 1:16

Read James 1:16 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **πλανάω** (planaō) — Strong’s G4105 — “to cause to wander, lead astray”

Cross References

- Read Galatians 6:7
- Read 1 Corinthians 6:9

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition

From the Theologians

> “It is a grievous error to ascribe the evil and not the good which we receive to God.”
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 1:16

↑ Index

James 1:17

Read James 1:17 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **παραλλαγή** (parallagē) — Strong’s G3883 — “change”
- **τροπή** (tropē) — Strong’s G5157 — “a turning: esp. of the revolution of heavenly bodies”

Cross References

- Read Malachi 3:6
- Read Matthew 7:11

In This Verse

About God

From the Theologians

> “In God is nothing of this kind. He is mere light.”
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 1:17

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 1:17

↑ Index

James 1:18

Read James 1:18 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ἀποκυέω** (apokueō) — Strong’s G616 — “to bring forth, give birth to”
- **ἀπαρχή** (aparchē) — Strong’s G536 — “first fruits”

Cross References

- Read John 1:13
- Read 1 Peter 1:23

In This Verse

About God

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 1:18

↑ Index

James 1:19

Read James 1:19 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ταχύς** (tachus) — Strong’s G5036 — “quick, swift, speedy”
- **ὀργή** (orgē) — Strong’s G3709 — “anger, wrath”

Cross References

- Read Proverbs 10:19

- Read Ecclesiastes 7:9

In This Verse

Command

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 1:19

↑ Index

James 1:20

Read James 1:20 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **δικαιοσύνη** (dikaiosunē) — Strong's G1343 — "righteousness, conformity to the Divine will in purpose, thought and action"

Cross References

- Read Ephesians 4:26
- Read Proverbs 14:29

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition

Commentary

The worst thing we can bring to any dispute, is anger.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 1:20

↑ Index

James 1:21

Read James 1:21 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **πραότης** (praotēs) — Strong's G4236 — "gentleness, meekness"
- **ἔμφυτος** (emphutos) — Strong's G1721 — "rooted, implanted"

Cross References

- Read Colossians 3:8
- Read 1 Peter 2:1-2

In This Verse

Command Promise

From the Theologians

> "Lay this, every known sin, aside, or all your hearing is vain."

> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 1:21

Commentary

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 every thing 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, dishonour the gospel, and disappoint their own souls.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 1:21

↑ Index

James 1:22

Read James 1:22 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ποιητής** (poiētēs) — Strong's G4163 — "a doer"
- **παραλογίζομαι** (paralogizomai) — Strong's G3884 — "to reason falsely, hence, to mislead"

Cross References

- Read Matthew 7:24
- Read Romans 2:13

In This Verse

Command

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 1:22

↑ Index

James 1:23

Read James 1:23 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **κατανοέω** (katanoeō) — Strong's G2657 — "to take note of, perceive, consider carefully"
- **ἔσοπτρον** (esoptron) — Strong's G2072 — "a mirror"

Cross References

- Read Luke 6:49
- Read Matthew 7:26

In This Verse

Word picture

From the Theologians

> “How exactly does the scripture glass show a man the face of his soul!”
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 1:23

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 1:23

↑ Index

James 1:24

Read James 1:24 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ἐπιλανθάνω** (epilanthanō) — Strong's G1950 — "to forget, neglect"

Cross References

- Read Ezekiel 33:31
- Read 2 Corinthians 3:18

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 1:24

↑ Index

James 1:25

Read James 1:25 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **παρακύπτω** (parakuptō) — Strong's G3879 — "to stoop to look"
- **ἐλευθερία** (eleutheria) — Strong's G1657 — "liberty"

Cross References

- Read Psalm 19:7

- Read John 13:17

In This Verse

Promise

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 1:25

↑ Index

James 1:26

Read James 1:26 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **θρησκός** (thrēskos) — Strong's G2357 — "religious, careful of the outward forms of divine service"
- **χαλιναγωγέω** (chalinagōgeō) — Strong's G5468 — "to lead with a bridle; metaphorically, to bridle, restrain"

Cross References

- Read Psalm 34:13
- Read Psalm 141:3

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 1:26

↑ Index

James 1:27

Read James 1:27 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ἀμίαντος** (amiantos) — Strong's G283 — "undefiled, free from contamination"
- **ἄσπιλος** (aspilos) — Strong's G784 — "spotless, unstained"
- **ἐπισκέπτομαι** (episkeptomai) — Strong's G1980 — "to visit with help, to care for"

Cross References

- Read Isaiah 1:17
- Read 1 John 2:15

In This Verse

Plain statement

From the Theologians

> "But this cannot be done, till we have given our hearts to God, and love our neighbour as ourselves."
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 1:27

Commentary

True religion teaches us to do every thing 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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 1:27

↑ Index

Chapter 1 Reflection Questions

1. When trials come, do I ask God for wisdom to use them rightly, or only for them to end? (James 1:2-5)
2. Where in my life am I a hearer of the Word but not yet a doer? (James 1:22-25)
3. Is my tongue bridled, and am I visiting those in affliction and keeping myself unstained from the world? (James 1:26-27)

↑ Index

James Chapter 2

Read all of James 2 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗ Blue Letter Bible ↗

↑ Index

James 2:1

Read James 2:1 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **προσωπολημψία** (prosōpolēpsia) — Strong's G4382 — "respect of persons"
- **δόξα** (doxa) — Strong's G1391 — "visible brightness, splendour, glory"

Cross References

- Read Leviticus 19:15
- Read 1 Corinthians 2:8

In This Verse

Command | About God

From the Theologians

> "honour none merely for being rich; despise none merely for being poor."
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 2:1

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 2:1

↑ Index

James 2:2

Read James 2:2 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **συναγωγή** (sunagōgē) — Strong's G4864 — "a collecting, assembling"
- **ῥυπαρός** (rhuparos) — Strong's G4508 — "filthy, dirty: of old, shabby clothing"

Cross References

- Read Luke 16:19
- Read 1 Samuel 16:7

In This Verse

Word picture

↑ Index

James 2:3

Read James 2:3 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ἐπιβλέπω** (epiblepō) — Strong's G1914 — "to look on with favour"

Cross References

- Read Matthew 23:6
- Read Luke 14:10

Commentary

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 that usually is the case in worshipping congregations.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 2:2-3

↑ Index

James 2:4

Read James 2:4 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **διακρίνω** (diakrinō) — Strong's G1252 — "to separate, hence, to distinguish, discriminate, discern"
- **διαλογισμός** (dialogismos) — Strong's G1261 — "a thought, reasoning, inward questioning"

Cross References

- Read John 7:24
- Read Deuteronomy 1:17

From the Theologians

> “for fine apparel is no proof of worth in him that wears it.”
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 2:4

Commentary

Questioning ourselves is of great use in every part of the holy life. Let us be more frequent in this, and in every thing take occasion to discourse with our souls.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 2:4

↑ Index

James 2:5

Read James 2:5 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ἐκλέγω** (eklegō) — Strong’s G1586 — “to pick out for oneself, choose”
- **κληρονόμος** (klēronomos) — Strong’s G2818 — “an heir”

Cross References

- Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-28
- Read Luke 6:20

In This Verse

Command | Promise

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 2:5

↑ Index

James 2:6

Read James 2:6 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **καταδυναστεύω** (katadunasteuō) — Strong's G2616 — "to exercise power over, oppress"
- **ἀτιμάζω** (atimazō) — Strong's G818 — "to dishonour, insult"

Cross References

- Read Proverbs 14:31
- Read Acts 16:19

↑ Index

James 2:7

Read James 2:7 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **βλασφημέω** (blasphēmeō) — Strong's G987 — "to speak impiously of God, to blaspheme, speak blasphemously"

Cross References

- Read Acts 11:26
- Read 1 Peter 4:14

In This Verse

About God

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 2:6-7

↑ Index

James 2:8

Read James 2:8 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **βασιλικός** (basilikos) — Strong's G937 — "royal, belonging to a king"
- **τελέω** (teleō) — Strong's G5055 — "to execute, perform, complete, fulfil"

Cross References

- Read Leviticus 19:18
- Read Matthew 22:39

In This Verse

Command Promise

Commentary

The Scripture gives as a law, to love our neighbour as ourselves.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 2:8

↑ Index

James 2:9

Read James 2:9 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **προσωπολημπτέω** (prosōpolēpteō) — Strong's G4380 — "to have respect of persons"
- **παραβάτης** (parabatēs) — Strong's G3848 — "a transgressor"

Cross References

- Read Acts 10:34
- Read Romans 2:11

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 2:9

↑ Index

James 2:10

Read James 2:10 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ἔνοχος** (enochos) — Strong's G1777 — "liable to a charge or action"

- **τηρέω** (tēreō) — Strong's G5083 — "to watch over, guard, keep, preserve"

Cross References

- Read Galatians 3:10
- Read Matthew 5:19

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition

From the Theologians

> "Is as liable to condemnation as if he had offended in every point."
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 2:10

Commentary

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, from which no obedience, past, present, or future, can deliver him.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 2:10

↑ Index

James 2:11

Read James 2:11 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **μοιχεύω** (moicheuō) — Strong's G3431 — "to commit adultery"
- **φονεύω** (phoneuō) — Strong's G5407 — "to kill, murder"

Cross References

- Read Exodus 20:13-14
- Read Romans 13:9

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition

From the Theologians

> "For it is the same authority which establishes every commandment."
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 2:11

↑ Index

James 2:12

Read James 2:12 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **κρίνω** (krinō) — Strong's G2919 — "to be of opinion, judge, think"

Cross References

- Read 1 Peter 2:16
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:10

In This Verse

Command

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 2:12

↑ Index

James 2:13

Read James 2:13 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ἀνίλεως** (anileōs) — Strong's G448 — "merciless"
- **κατακαυχάομαι** (katakauchaomai) — Strong's G2620 — "to boast against, exult over"

Cross References

- Read Matthew 5:7
- Read Matthew 18:33

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition | Promise

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 2:13

↑ Index

James 2:14

Read James 2:14 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ὄφελος** (ophelos) — Strong's G3786 — "advantage, help"
- **σῴζω** (sōzō) — Strong's G4982 — "to save"

Cross References

- Read Matthew 7:21
- Read Luke 6:46

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 2:14

↑ Index

James 2:15

Read James 2:15 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **γυμνός** (gumnos) — Strong's G1131 — "naked, without clothing"
- **ἐφήμερος** (ephēmeros) — Strong's G2184 — "daily, for the day"

Cross References

- Read Matthew 25:35-36
- Read Isaiah 58:7

In This Verse

Word picture

↑ Index

James 2:16

Read James 2:16 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **χορτάζω** (chortazō) — Strong's G5526 — "to fill or satisfy with food"

Cross References

- Read 1 John 3:17-18
- Read Proverbs 3:27

↑ Index

James 2:17

Read James 2:17 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **νεκρός** (nekros) — Strong's G3498 — "of things regarded as inoperative, devoid of power"

Cross References

- Read Titus 1:16
- Read Titus 3:8

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition

From the Theologians

> “that faith which hath not works is a mere dead, empty notion”
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 2:17

Commentary

This place of Scripture plainly shows that an opinion, or assent to the gospel, without works, is not faith.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 2:17

↑ Index

James 2:18

Read James 2:18 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **δεικνύω** (deiknuō) — Strong’s G1166 — “to show”

Cross References

- Read Matthew 7:20
- Read Titus 2:14

In This Verse

Plain statement

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 2:18

↑ Index

James 2:19

Read James 2:19 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **δαιμόνιον** (daimonion) — Strong's G1140 — "demon"
- **φρίσσω** (phrissō) — Strong's G5425 — "to shiver, shudder, tremble, from fear"

Cross References

- Read Deuteronomy 6:4
- Read Mark 1:24

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition | About God

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 2:19

↑ Index

James 2:20

Read James 2:20 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **κενός** (kenos) — Strong's G2756 — "empty, vain"
- **ἀργός** (argos) — Strong's G692 — "inactive, ineffective, worthless"

Cross References

- Read 1 Corinthians 13:2
- Read 1 John 2:4

From the Theologians

> “And so is not properly faith, as a dead carcase is not a man.”
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 2:20

↑ Index

James 2:21

Read James 2:21 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **δικαιόω** (dikaioō) — Strong’s G1344 — “to deem right”
- **θυσιαστήριον** (thusiastērion) — Strong’s G2379 — “an altar”

Cross References

- Read Genesis 22:9-10
- Read Hebrews 11:17

Commentary

That a justifying faith cannot be without works, is shown from two examples, Abraham and Rahab.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 2:21

↑ Index

James 2:22

Read James 2:22 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **συνεργέω** (sunergeō) — Strong's G4903 — "to work together"
- **τελειόω** (teleioō) — Strong's G5048 — "to bring to maturity or completeness, to complete, perfect"

Cross References

- Read Galatians 5:6
- Read 1 Thessalonians 1:3

In This Verse

Plain statement

From the Theologians

> "Works do not give life to faith, but faith begets works, and then is perfected by them."
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 2:22

↑ Index

James 2:23

Read James 2:23 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **λογίζομαι** (logizomai) — Strong's G3049 — "to reckon, take into account"
- **φίλος** (philos) — Strong's G5384 — "loving, friendly"

Cross References

- Read Genesis 15:6
- Read Isaiah 41:8

Commentary

Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness. Faith, producing such works, advanced him to peculiar favours.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 2:23

↑ Index

James 2:24

Read James 2:24 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **μόνος** (monos) — Strong's G3441 — "alone, solitary, forsaken"

Cross References

- Read Romans 2:6-7
- Read Ephesians 2:10

In This Verse

Plain statement

From the Theologians

> “And yet there is no contradiction between the apostles: because, They do not speak of the same faith: St. Paul speaking of living faith; St. James here, of dead faith. They do not speak of the same works: St. Paul speaking of works antecedent to faith; St. James, of works subsequent to it.”
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 2:24

Commentary

We see then, ver. 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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 2:24

↑ Index

James 2:25

Read James 2:25 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **πόρνη** (pornē) — Strong’s G4204 — “a prostitute, harlot”
- **ὑποδέχομαι** (hupodechomai) — Strong’s G5264 — “to receive under one's roof, receive as a guest, entertain hospitably”

Cross References

- Read Joshua 2:1
- Read Hebrews 11:31

From the Theologians

> “to show, that in every nation and sex true faith produces works, and is perfected by them”
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 2:25

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 2:25

↑ Index

James 2:26

Read James 2:26 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **πνεῦμα** (pneuma) — Strong's G4151 — "Of the vital principle, the spirit"

Cross References

- Read Revelation 3:1
- Read 2 Timothy 3:5

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition | Word picture

Commentary

Let us then take heed, for the best works, without faith, are dead; they want root and principle. By faith any thing 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. Every one 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 every thing for him and to him.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 2:26

↑ Index

Chapter 2 Reflection Questions

1. Do I treat people differently because of how they look or what they have? (James 2:1-4)
2. Is there someone in need I have only wished well, without giving what they need? (James 2:15-16)
3. Does my faith show itself in what I do, as Abraham's and Rahab's did? (James 2:21-26)

↑ Index

James Chapter 3

Read all of James 3 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗ Blue Letter Bible ↗

↑ Index

James 3:1

Read James 3:1 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **διδάσκαλος** (didaskalos) — Strong's G1320 — "a teacher"
- **κρίμα** (krima) — Strong's G2917 — "judgment, the decision passed on the faults of others"

Cross References

- Read Matthew 23:8
- Read Luke 12:48

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition

↑ Index

James 3:2

Read James 3:2 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **πταίω** (ptaiō) — Strong's G4417 — "Intrans., to stumble. Metaphorical, in moral sense"

Cross References

- Read 1 Kings 8:46
- Read Matthew 12:37

In This Verse

Plain statement

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 3:2

↑ Index

James 3:3

Read James 3:3 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **χαλινός** (chalinos) — Strong's G5469 — "a bridle"
- **μετάγω** (metagō) — Strong's G3329 — "to turn about, direct"

Cross References

- Read Psalm 32:9
- Read Psalm 39:1

In This Verse

Word picture

↑ Index

James 3:4

Read James 3:4 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **πλοῖον** (ploion) — Strong's G4143 — "a boat, also (= obsolete ναῦς) a ship"
- **πηδάλιον** (pēdalion) — Strong's G4079 — "a rudder"

Cross References

- Read Psalm 107:25
- Read Acts 27:40

In This Verse

Word picture

↑ Index

James 3:5

Read James 3:5 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **αὐχέω** (aucheō) — Strong's G6094 — "to boast"
- **ὕλη** (hulē) — Strong's G5208 — "wood, forest, woodland"

Cross References

- Read Psalm 12:3
- Read Proverbs 26:20

In This Verse

Word picture

↑ Index

James 3:6

Read James 3:6 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **γέεννα** (geenna) — Strong's G1067 — "Gehenna"
- **τροχός** (trochos) — Strong's G5164 — "a wheel"
- **σπιλόω** (spiloō) — Strong's G4695 — "to stain, spot, defile"

Cross References

- Read Proverbs 16:27
- Read Matthew 15:18

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 3:6

↑ Index

James 3:7

Read James 3:7 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **δαμάζω** (damazō) — Strong's G1150 — "to tame, subdue"
- **φύσις** (phusis) — Strong's G5449 — "the nature (natural powers or constitution) of a person or thing"

Cross References

- Read Genesis 1:28
- Read Psalm 8:6-8

↑ Index

James 3:8

Read James 3:8 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **θανατήφορος** (thanatēphoros) — Strong's G2287 — "deadly, death-bringing"
- **ἰός** (ios) — Strong's G2447 — "poison"

Cross References

- Read Psalm 140:3
- Read Romans 3:13

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition

From the Theologians

> “no, nor his own, without peculiar help from God.”
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 3:8

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 3:8

↑ Index

James 3:9

Read James 3:9 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **εὐλογέω** (eulogeō) — Strong's G2127 — "to speak well of, praise"
- **καταράομαι** (kataraomai) — Strong's G2672 — "to curse"
- **ὁμοίωσις** (homoiōsis) — Strong's G3669 — "likeness"

Cross References

- Read Genesis 1:27
- Read Genesis 9:6

In This Verse

About God

From the Theologians

> "yet there remains from thence an indelible nobleness, which we ought to reverence both in ourselves and others."
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 3:9

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 3:9

↑ Index

James 3:10

Read James 3:10 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **κατάρα** (katara) — Strong's G2671 — "a curse"

Cross References

- Read Psalm 62:4
- Read Ephesians 4:29

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition

Commentary

True religion will not admit of contradictions: how many sins would be prevented, if men would always be consistent!

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 3:10

↑ Index

James 3:11

Read James 3:11 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **πηγή** (pēgē) — Strong's G4077 — "a spring, fountain"
- **πικρός** (pikros) — Strong's G4089 — "sharp to the senses; of taste, bitter"

Cross References

- Read Proverbs 10:11
- Read Matthew 12:34

In This Verse

Word picture

↑ Index

James 3:12

Read James 3:12 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **συκῆ** (sukē) — Strong's G4808 — "a fig-tree"
- **ἐλαία** (elaia) — Strong's G1636 — "an olive"

Cross References

- Read Matthew 7:16
- Read Luke 6:45

In This Verse

Word picture

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 3:11-12

↑ Index

James 3:13

Read James 3:13 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **σοφός** (sophos) — Strong's G4680 — "skilled, clever, wise"
- **ἐπιστήμων** (epistēmōn) — Strong's G1990 — "knowing, skilled"
- **ἀναστροφή** (anastrophē) — Strong's G391 — "behaviour, conduct"

Cross References

- Read Hosea 14:9

- Read 1 Peter 2:12

In This Verse

Command

From the Theologians

> “Let him show his wisdom as well as his faith by his works; not by words only.”
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 3:13

Commentary

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 know by the meekness of the spirit and temper.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 3:13

↑ Index

James 3:14

Read James 3:14 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ζῆλος** (zēlos) — Strong’s G2205 — “jealousy”

- **ἐριθεία** (eritheia) — Strong's G2052 — "ambition, self-seeking, rivalry"

Cross References

- Read 1 Corinthians 3:3
- Read 1 John 1:6

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition

From the Theologians

> "True Christian zeal is only the flame of love."
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 3:14

↑ Index

James 3:15

Read James 3:15 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ἐπίγειος** (epigeios) — Strong's G1919 — "of the earth, earthly"
- **ψυχικός** (psuchikos) — Strong's G5591 — "natural"
- **δαιμονιώδης** (daimoniōdēs) — Strong's G1141 — "demon-like"

Cross References

- Read 1 Corinthians 2:6
- Read 2 Corinthians 1:12

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition

Commentary

Such wisdom comes not down from above, but springs up from earthly principles, acts on earthly motives, and is intent on serving earthly purposes.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 3:15

↑ Index

James 3:16

Read James 3:16 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ἀκαταστασία** (akatastasia) — Strong's G181 — "instability"
- **φαῦλος** (phaulos) — Strong's G5337 — "worthless, bad"

Cross References

- Read 1 Corinthians 14:33
- Read 2 Corinthians 12:20

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition

Commentary

Those who live in malice, envy, and contention, live in confusion; and are liable to be provoked and hurried to any evil work.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 3:16

↑ Index

James 3:17

Read James 3:17 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ἁγνός** (hagnos) — Strong's G0053 — "pure"
- **ἐπιεικής** (epieikēs) — Strong's G1933 — "equitable, fair, moderate"
- **εὐπειθής** (eupeithēs) — Strong's G2138 — "ready to obey, compliant"
- **ἀδιάκριτος** (adiakritos) — Strong's G0087 — "without uncertainty"
- **ἀνυπόκριτος** (anupokritos) — Strong's G5005 — "unfeigned"

Cross References

- Read Galatians 5:22-23
- Read Romans 12:9

In This Verse

Plain statement

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 3:17

↑ Index

James 3:18

Read James 3:18 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **καρπός** (karpos) — Strong's G2590 — "fruit"
- **εἰρήνη** (eirēnē) — Strong's G1515 — "Of peace between persons, concord, agreement"

Cross References

- Read Matthew 5:9
- Read Hebrews 12:11

In This Verse

Promise

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 3:18

↑ Index

Chapter 3 Reflection Questions

1. What do my words this week show about what is in my heart? (James 3:9-12)
2. Where have bitter jealousy or selfish ambition found a place in me? (James 3:14-16)
3. Which mark of the wisdom from above do I most need to ask God for? (James 3:17-18)

↑ Index

James Chapter 4

Read all of James 4 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗ Blue Letter Bible ↗

↑ Index

James 4:1

Read James 4:1 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **πόλεμος** (polemos) — Strong's G4171 — "war"
- **μάχη** (machē) — Strong's G3163 — "a strife, contention, quarrel"
- **ἡδονή** (hēdonē) — Strong's G2237 — "pleasure"

Cross References

- Read Romans 7:23
- Read 1 Peter 2:11

In This Verse

Plain statement

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 4:1

↑ Index

James 4:2

Read James 4:2 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ἐπιθυμέω** (epithumeō) — Strong's G1937 — "to set one's heart upon, desire, lust after, covet"
- **ζηλόω** (zēloō) — Strong's G2206 — "to burn with envy or jealousy"

Cross References

- Read John 16:24
- Read 1 John 3:15

In This Verse

Plain statement

From the Theologians

> "for a man full of evil desire, of envy or hatred, cannot pray."
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 4:2

Commentary

Sinful desires and affections stop prayer, and the working of our desires toward God.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 4:2

↑ Index

James 4:3

Read James 4:3 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **κακῶς** (kakōs) — Strong's G2560 — "badly, ill"
- **δαπανάω** (dapanaō) — Strong's G1159 — "to consume, squander"

Cross References

- Read 1 John 5:14
- Read Psalm 66:18

In This Verse

Plain statement

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 4:3

↑ Index

James 4:4

Read James 4:4 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **μοιχαλίς** (moichalis) — Strong's G3428 — "an adulteress"
- **φιλία** (philia) — Strong's G5373 — "friendship"
- **ἔχθρα** (echthra) — Strong's G2189 — "enmity"

Cross References

- Read John 15:19
- Read Romans 8:7

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition

Commentary

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 any one who resolves at all events to be upon friendly terms with the world, must be the enemy of God.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 4:4

↑ Index

James 4:5

Read James 4:5 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ἐπιποθέω** (epipotheō) — Strong's G1971 — "to long for, desire"
- **φθόνος** (phthonos) — Strong's G5355 — "envy"

Cross References

- Read Exodus 34:14
- Read 1 Corinthians 6:19

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 4:5

↑ Index

James 4:6

Read James 4:6 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ὑπερήφανος** (huperēphanos) — Strong's G5244 — "arrogant, haughty, disdainful"
- **ἀντιτάσσω** (antitassō) — Strong's G498 — "to set oneself against, resist"
- **χάρις** (charis) — Strong's G5485 — "grace, graciousness, kindness, goodwill, favour"

Cross References

- Read Proverbs 3:34
- Read 1 Peter 5:5

In This Verse

Promise

From the Theologians

> “And pride is the great root of all unkind affections.”
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 4:6

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 4:6

↑ Index

James 4:7

Read James 4:7 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ὑποτάσσω** (hupotassō) — Strong’s G5293 — “to subject oneself, obey”

- **ἀνθίστημι** (anthistēmi) — Strong's G436 — "to withstand, resist, oppose"
- **διάβολος** (diabolos) — Strong's G1228 — "of Satan, the Accuser, the Devil"

Cross References

- Read 1 Peter 5:8-9
- Read Ephesians 6:11

In This Verse

Command | Promise

Commentary

Submit to God, ver. 7. 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 will leave us. Let sinners then submit to God, and seek his grace and favour; resisting the devil.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 4:7

↑ Index

James 4:8

Read James 4:8 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ἐγγίζω** (engizō) — Strong's G1448 — "to come near"
- **καθαρίζω** (katharizō) — Strong's G2511 — "In ethical sense"

Cross References

- Read Zechariah 1:3
- Read Psalm 24:3-4

In This Verse

Command | Promise

↑ Index

James 4:9

Read James 4:9 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ταλαιπωρέω** (talaipōreō) — Strong's G5003 — "to do hard labour, suffer hardship or distress"
- **πενθέω** (pentheō) — Strong's G3996 — "to mourn (for), lament"
- **κατήφεια** (katēpheia) — Strong's G2726 — "dejection"

Cross References

- Read Matthew 5:4

- Read Luke 6:25

In This Verse

Command

Commentary

All sin must be wept over; here, in godly sorrow, or, hereafter, in eternal misery.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 4:9

↑ Index

James 4:10

Read James 4:10 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ταπεινόω** (tapeinoō) — Strong's G5013 — "to humble, abase"
- **ὑψόω** (hupsoō) — Strong's G5312 — "to exalt, uplift"

Cross References

- Read 1 Peter 5:6
- Read Luke 14:11

In This Verse

Command Promise

Commentary

And the Lord will not refuse to comfort one who really mourns for sin, or to exalt one who humbles himself before him.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 4:10

↑ Index

James 4:11

Read James 4:11 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **καταλαλέω** (katalaleō) — Strong's G2635 — "to speak evil of, rail at"

Cross References

- Read Matthew 7:1
- Read Ephesians 4:31

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition

From the Theologians

> "This is a grand hinderance of peace. O who is sufficiently aware of it!"
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 4:11

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 4:11

↑ Index

James 4:12

Read James 4:12 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **νομοθέτης** (nomothetēs) — Strong's G3550 — "a lawgiver"
- **ἀπολλύω** (apolluō) — Strong's G622 — "to destroy utterly, destroy, kill"

Cross References

- Read Isaiah 33:22
- Read Romans 14:4

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition | About God

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 4:12

↑ Index

James 4:13

Read James 4:13 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ἐμπορεύομαι** (emporeuomai) — Strong's G1710 — "to travel, esp. for business"

Cross References

- Read Luke 12:18-19
- Read Proverbs 27:1

Commentary

Go to now, is a call to any one 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 any thing good without God's blessing and guidance!

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 4:13

↑ Index

James 4:14

Read James 4:14 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ἀτμίς** (atmis) — Strong's G822 — "vapour"
- **ἀφανίζω** (aphanizō) — Strong's G853 — "to vanish"

Cross References

- Read Psalm 39:5
- Read Job 7:7

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition | Word picture

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 4:14

↑ Index

James 4:15

Read James 4:15 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **θέλω** (thelō) — Strong's G2309 — "to will, be willing, wish, desire"

Cross References

- Read Acts 18:21
- Read 1 Corinthians 4:19

In This Verse

Command

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 4:15

↑ Index

James 4:16

Read James 4:16 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ἀλαζονείᾳ** (alazoneia) — Strong's G212 — "boastfulness, vainglory, vaunting"
- **καύχησις** (kauchēsis) — Strong's G2746 — "a boasting, glorying"

Cross References

- Read 1 Corinthians 5:6
- Read 1 John 2:16

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 4:16

↑ Index

James 4:17

Read James 4:17 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **καλός** (kalos) — Strong's G2570 — "good, excellent"

Cross References

- Read Luke 12:47
- Read John 9:41

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition

From the Theologians

> "This knowledge does not prevent, but increase, his condemnation."
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 4:17

Commentary

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!

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 4:17

↑ Index

Chapter 4 Reflection Questions

1. Where is friendship with the world pulling me away from God? (James 4:4)
2. Am I drawing near to God and humbling myself before Him? (James 4:7-10)
3. Do I make my plans saying, “If the Lord wills”? (James 4:13-15)

↑ Index

James Chapter 5

Read all of James 5 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗ Blue Letter Bible ↗

↑ Index

James 5:1

Read James 5:1 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ὀλολύζω** (ololuzō) — Strong’s G3649 — “to cry aloud”
- **ταλαιπωρία** (talaipōria) — Strong’s G5004 — “hardship, suffering, distress”

Cross References

- Read Luke 6:24
- Read 1 Timothy 6:9

In This Verse

Command

Commentary

Public troubles are most grievous to those who live in pleasure, and are secure and sensual, though all ranks suffer deeply at such times.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 5:1

↑ Index

James 5:2

Read James 5:2 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **σήπω** (sēpō) — Strong's G4595 — "has perished, become corrupted"
- **σητόβρωτος** (sētobrōtos) — Strong's G4598 — "moth-eaten"

Cross References

- Read Matthew 6:19-20
- Read Job 13:28

In This Verse

Plain statement

↑ Index

James 5:3

Read James 5:3 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **κατιόομαι** (katioomai) — Strong's G2728 — "become rusted over"
- **θησαυρίζω** (thēsaurizō) — Strong's G2343 — "to lay up, store up"

Cross References

- Read Luke 12:21
- Read Romans 2:5

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition

Commentary

All idolized treasures will soon perish, except as they will rise up in judgment against their possessors.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 5:3

↑ Index

James 5:4

Read James 5:4 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **μισθός** (misthos) — Strong's G3408 — "wages, hire"
- **σαβαώθ** (sabaōth) — Strong's G4519 — "Sabaoth, i.e. hosts or armies"

Cross References

- Read Leviticus 19:13
- Read Deuteronomy 24:14-15

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition | About God | Plain statement

Commentary

Take heed of defrauding and oppressing; and avoid the very appearance of it.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 5:4

↑ Index

James 5:5

Read James 5:5 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **τρυφάω** (truphaō) — Strong's G5171 — "to live daintily, luxuriously, to fare sumptuously"
- **σπαταλάω** (spatalaō) — Strong's G4684 — "to live riotously"

- **σφαγή** (sphagē) — Strong's G4967 — "slaughter"

Cross References

- Read Luke 16:25
- Read Amos 6:4

Commentary

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?

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 5:5

↑ Index

James 5:6

Read James 5:6 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **καταδικάζω** (katadikazō) — Strong's G2613 — "to pass sentence upon, condemn"
- **δίκαιος** (dikaios) — Strong's G1342 — "righteous"

Cross References

- Read Acts 7:52
- Read Isaiah 53:7

In This Verse

Plain statement

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 5:6

↑ Index

James 5:7

Read James 5:7 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **μακροθυμέω** (makrothumeō) — Strong's G3114 — "to be patient, long-suffering"
- **παρουσία** (parousia) — Strong's G3952 — "a coming, arrival, advent"
- **γεωργός** (geōrgos) — Strong's G1092 — "a husbandman"

Cross References

- Read Galatians 6:9
- Read Deuteronomy 11:14

In This Verse

Command | Word picture

Commentary

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?

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 5:7

↑ Index

James 5:8

Read James 5:8 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **στηρίζω** (stērizō) — Strong's G4741 — "to confirm, establish"

Cross References

- Read 1 Thessalonians 3:13
- Read Philippians 4:5

In This Verse

Command | Promise

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 5:8

↑ Index

James 5:9

Read James 5:9 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **στενάζω** (stenazō) — Strong's G4727 — "to groan"
- **κριτής** (kritēs) — Strong's G2923 — "a judge"

Cross References

- Read Matthew 24:33
- Read 1 Corinthians 4:5

In This Verse

Warning or prohibition | About God

From the Theologians

> “Hearing every word, marking every thought.”
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 5:9

↑ Index

James 5:10

Read James 5:10 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ὑπόδειγμα** (hupodeigma) — Strong’s G5262 — “an example”
- **κακοπάθεια** (kakopatheia) — Strong’s G2552 — “distress, affliction”

Cross References

- Read Nehemiah 9:26
- Read Hebrews 6:12

In This Verse

Command

From the Theologians

> “nor did either their holiness or their high commission screen them from suffering.”

> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 5:10

↑ Index

James 5:11

Read James 5:11 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **μακαρίζω** (makarizō) — Strong's G3106 — "to bless, pronounce blessed or happy"
- **πολύσπλαγχνος** (polusplagchnos) — Strong's G4184 — "very pitiful"
- **οἰκτίρμων** (oiktirmōn) — Strong's G3629 — "merciful"

Cross References

- Read Job 1:21-22
- Read Psalm 103:8

In This Verse

Promise About God

From the Theologians

> "The more they once suffered, the greater is their present happiness."

> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 5:11

Commentary

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 for ever.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 5:11

↑ Index

James 5:12

Read James 5:12 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ὄμνυμι** (omnumi) — Strong’s G3660 — “to swear, affirm by oath”
- **ὅρκος** (horkos) — Strong’s G3727 — “an oath”

Cross References

- Read Matthew 5:34-37
- Read Leviticus 19:12

In This Verse

Command | Warning or prohibition

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 5:12

↑ Index

James 5:13

Read James 5:13 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **κακοπαθέω** (kakopatheō) — Strong's G2553 — "to suffer evil, endure Affliction"
- **εὐθυμέω** (euthumeō) — Strong's G2114 — "to be of good cheer"

- **ψάλλω** (psallō) — Strong's G5567 — "to sing a hymn, sing praise"

Cross References

- Read Psalm 50:15
- Read Colossians 3:16

In This Verse

Command

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 5:13

↑ Index

James 5:14

Read James 5:14 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ἀσθενέω** (astheneō) — Strong's G770 — "to be sick"
- **πρεσβύτερος** (presbuteros) — Strong's G4245 — "Of dignity, rank or office"

- **ἀλείφω** (aleiphō) — Strong's G218 — "to anoint"

Cross References

- Read Mark 6:13
- Read Acts 14:23

In This Verse

Command

↑ Index

James 5:15

Read James 5:15 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **κάμνω** (kamnō) — Strong's G2577 — "to be sick"
- **ἐγείρω** (egeirō) — Strong's G1453 — "to raise"

Cross References

- Read Psalm 103:3
- Read Matthew 9:2

In This Verse

Promise

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 5:14-15

↑ Index

James 5:16

Read James 5:16 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ἐξομολογέομαι** (exomologeomai) — Strong's G1843 — "to acknowledge, confess"
- **ἰάομαι** (iaomai) — Strong's G2390 — "to heal"
- **ἐνεργέω** (energeō) — Strong's G1754 — "to be at work or in action, to operate"

Cross References

- Read 1 John 1:9
- Read Proverbs 15:29

In This Verse

Command | Promise

From the Theologians

> “We may confess them to any who can pray in faith: he will then know how to pray for us, and be more stirred up so to do.”
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 5:16

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 5:16

↑ Index

James 5:17

Read James 5:17 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ὁμοιοπαθής** (homoiopathēs) — Strong's G3663 — "of like feelings or affections"
- **προσευχή** (proseuchē) — Strong's G4335 — "prayer to God"

Cross References

- Read 1 Kings 17:1
- Read Luke 4:25

↑ Index

James 5:18

Read James 5:18 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **ὑετός** (huetos) — Strong's G5205 — "rain"
- **βλαστάνω** (blastanō) — Strong's G985 — "to make to grow, produce"

Cross References

- Read 1 Kings 18:42
- Read 1 Kings 18:45

Commentary

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 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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 5:17-18

↑ Index

James 5:19

Read James 5:19 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **πλανάω** (planaō) — Strong's G4105 — "to go astray, wander"
- **ἐπιστρέφω** (epistrephō) — Strong's G1994 — "to turn, cause to return"

Cross References

- Read Galatians 6:1
- Read Matthew 18:15

From the Theologians

> “watch not only over yourselves, but every one over his brother also. Labour, in particular, to recover those that are fallen.”
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 5:19

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 5:19

↑ Index

James 5:20

Read James 5:20 (ESV) AMP ↗ NLT ↗

Greek Words

- **πλάνη** (planē) — Strong’s G4106 — “a going astray, an error”
- **καλύπτω** (kaluptō) — Strong’s G2572 — “to cover”

Cross References

- Read 1 Peter 4:8

- Read Proverbs 10:12

In This Verse

Promise

From the Theologians

> “Of how much more value than the body!”
>
> — John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, on James 5:20

Commentary

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.

— Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary*, on James 5:20

↑ Index

Chapter 5 Reflection Questions

1. Am I waiting patiently for the Lord's coming, without grumbling against others? (James 5:7-9)
2. Do I turn to prayer and praise in suffering, in good times, and in sickness? (James 5:13-16)
3. Is there someone wandering from the truth whom I should help bring back? (James 5:19-20)

↑ Index

James Information Sheet

Just the facts from Scripture — no commentary. Tap any reference to read it.

People named

- **Jesus Christ:** James 1:1 James 2:1 James 5:8
- **God the Father:** James 1:17 James 1:27 James 3:9
- **Abraham:** James 2:21 James 2:23
- **Isaac:** James 2:21
- **Rahab:** James 2:25
- **Job:** James 5:11

- **Elijah:** James 5:17 James 5:18
- **The devil:** James 4:7

Men named James in Scripture

- **James the son of Zebedee:** Matthew 4:21 Acts 12:1-2
- **James the son of Alphaeus:** Matthew 10:3
- **James the Lord's brother:** Galatians 1:19 Matthew 13:55
- **James at Jerusalem:** Acts 15:13 Acts 21:18

Chapter 1

Commands: James 1:2 James 1:4 James 1:5 James 1:6 James 1:9 James 1:10 James 1:19 James 1:21 James 1:22

Warnings and Prohibitions: James 1:7 James 1:8 James 1:11 James 1:13 James 1:15 James 1:16 James 1:20 James 1:26

Promises: James 1:4 James 1:5 James 1:12 James 1:21 James 1:25

What This Chapter Says About God: James 1:5 James 1:13 James 1:17 James 1:18

Other Plain Statements: James 1:3 James 1:14 James 1:15 James 1:27

Word Pictures: James 1:6 James 1:10 James 1:23

Chapter 2

Commands: James 2:1 James 2:5 James 2:8 James 2:12

Warnings and Prohibitions: James 2:9 James 2:10 James 2:11 James 2:13 James 2:17 James 2:19 James 2:26

Promises: James 2:5 James 2:8 James 2:13

What This Chapter Says About God: James 2:1 James 2:7 James 2:19

Other Plain Statements: James 2:18 James 2:22 James 2:24

Word Pictures: James 2:2 James 2:15 James 2:26

Chapter 3

Commands: James 3:13

Warnings and Prohibitions: James 3:1 James 3:6 James 3:8 James 3:10 James 3:14 James 3:15 James 3:16

Promises: James 3:18

What This Chapter Says About God: James 3:9

Other Plain Statements: James 3:2 James 3:17

Word Pictures: James 3:3 James 3:4 James 3:5 James 3:11 James 3:12

Chapter 4

Commands: James 4:7 James 4:8 James 4:9 James 4:10 James 4:15

Warnings and Prohibitions: James 4:4 James 4:11 James 4:12 James 4:14 James 4:16 James 4:17

Promises: James 4:6 James 4:7 James 4:8 James 4:10

What This Chapter Says About God: James 4:12

Other Plain Statements: James 4:1 James 4:2 James 4:3

Word Pictures: James 4:14

Chapter 5

Commands: James 5:1 James 5:7 James 5:8 James 5:10 James 5:12 James 5:13 James 5:14 James 5:16

Warnings and Prohibitions: James 5:3 James 5:4 James 5:9 James 5:12

Promises: James 5:8 James 5:11 James 5:15 James 5:16 James 5:20

What This Chapter Says About God: James 5:4 James 5:9 James 5:11

Other Plain Statements: James 5:2 James 5:4 James 5:6

Word Pictures: James 5:7

↑ Index

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- Commentary: Matthew Henry, *Concise Commentary on the Whole Bible*. Theologian quotations: John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*. Both public domain.

↑ Index

Hollis' Breakdown of Scripture

(following the exact wording of the ESV but breaking into bite-size phrases and words without any modification)

ESV with selected Greek word notes. Read each phrase slowly. Underlined Scripture references open passages in this document; use the return links to come back.

Greek notes are study helps, separate from Scripture. Pronunciations are approximate; CAPITALS mark stress.

Chapter 1 Chapter 2 Chapter 3 Chapter 4 Chapter 5

(begin chapter 1)

1 James,

a servant of God

Greek: *δοῦλος · doulos (DOO-loss). A slave or bondservant. James identifies himself as belonging to God and the Lord Jesus Christ, under their authority.*

and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:

Greek: *διασπορά · diaspora (dee-ah-spor-AH). Dispersion or scattering; also the people living scattered abroad. The address draws on the language of Israel dispersed among the nations.*

Greetings.

Galatians 1:19

2 Count it all joy,

my brothers,

when you meet trials of various kinds,

Greek: *πειρασμός · peirasmos (pay-rahs-MOSS). A trial or test. Here it refers to hardships that test faith; the related word group can describe temptation to sin in a different context (1:13–14).*

1 Peter 1:6

3 for you know

that the testing of your faith

produces steadfastness.

Greek: *ὑπομονή · hypomonē (hoo-poh-moh-NAY). Patient endurance: continuing faithfully through difficulty. James presents it as the fruit of tested faith.*

Romans 5:3–4 1 Peter 1:7

4 And let steadfastness have its full effect,

that you may be perfect and complete,

Greek: *τέλειος · teleios (TEH-lay-oss). Complete, mature, or fully developed. Here it describes the wholeness toward which endurance leads; the adjective alone does not establish a claim of sinlessness.*

lacking in nothing.

Colossians 4:12

5 If any of you lacks wisdom,

Greek: *σοφία · sophia (soh-FEE-ah). Wisdom or understanding. In this setting it is the discernment needed to respond faithfully to trials; compare the conduct shaped by wisdom in 3:13–18.*

let him ask God,

who gives generously to all

Greek: *ἁπλῶς · haplōs (hah-PLOHSS). Describes giving generously, sincerely, or without reservation. The precise shade is debated, but the emphasis is on God's wholehearted willingness to give.*

without reproach,

and it will be given him.

Proverbs 2:6 Matthew 7:7

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.

Mark 11:24

7 For that person must not suppose

that he will receive anything from the Lord;

Hebrews 11:6

8 he is a double-minded man,

Greek: *δίψυχος · dipsychos (DIP-soo-khoss). Of two minds, wavering or divided in loyalty. James uses the same word again in 4:8 when calling for purified hearts.*

unstable in all his ways.

Psalm 86:11

9 Let the lowly brother boast

in his exaltation,

James 2:5

10 and the rich

in his humiliation,

because like a flower of the grass

he will pass away.

Isaiah 40:6–8

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.

Psalm 103:15–16

12 Blessed is the man

who remains steadfast under trial,

for when he has stood the test

he will receive the crown of life,

Greek: *στέφανος · stephanos (STEH-fah-noss). A crown or wreath associated with honor and victory. The image expresses the promised reward of life for those who endure and love God.*

which God has promised

to those who love him.

Revelation 2:10 2 Timothy 4:8

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.

1 John 1:5

14 But each person is tempted

when he is lured and enticed

Greek: *δελεάζω · deleazō (deh-leh-AH-zoh). To entice or lure with bait. The image describes how a person's own desire draws them toward sin.*

by his own desire.

Genesis 3:6

15 Then desire when it has conceived

gives birth to sin,

and sin when it is fully grown

brings forth death.

Romans 6:23

16 Do not be deceived,

my beloved brothers.

Galatians 6:7

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.

Malachi 3:6 Matthew 7:11

18 Of his own will

he brought us forth

by the word of truth,

that we should be a kind of firstfruits

Greek: *ἀπαρχή · aparchē (ah-par-KHAY). The first portion of a harvest offered to God. Used figuratively here of the people brought to new life by God’s word.*

of his creatures.

John 1:13 1 Peter 1:23

19 Know this,

my beloved brothers:

let every person be quick to hear,

slow to speak,

slow to anger;

Proverbs 10:19 Ecclesiastes 7:9

20 for the anger of man

does not produce

the righteousness of God.

Proverbs 14:29

21 Therefore put away all filthiness

and rampant wickedness

and receive with meekness

the implanted word,

Greek: *ἔμφυτος · emphytos (EM-foo-toss). Implanted or rooted within. James calls readers to welcome the word that has taken root in them.*

which is able to save your souls.

1 Peter 2:1–2

22 But be doers of the word,

Greek: *ποιητής · poiētēs (poy-ay-TAYSS). A doer: someone who carries something out. In this context, hearing the word calls for putting it into practice.*

and not hearers only,

deceiving yourselves.

Matthew 7:24

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.

Luke 6:49

24 For he looks at himself

and goes away

and at once forgets what he was like.

Ezekiel 33:31

25 But the one who looks into the perfect law,

Greek: *παρακύπτω · parakyptō (pah-rah-KOOP-toh). To bend down to look; figuratively, to look closely into something. Here close attention to God's law is joined with continuing obedience.*

the law of liberty,

and perseveres,

being no hearer who forgets

but a doer who acts,

he will be blessed in his doing.

Psalm 19:7 John 13:17

26 If anyone thinks he is religious

and does not bridle his tongue

but deceives his heart,

this person’s religion is worthless.

Psalm 34:13

27 Religion that is pure and undefiled

before God the Father is this:

to visit orphans and widows

Greek: *ἐπισκέπτομαι · episkeptomai (eh-pee-SKEP-toh-my). To visit or look after someone. In the setting of affliction, this is caring attention to people in need.*

in their affliction,

and to keep oneself unstained

from the world.

Isaiah 1:17 1 John 2:15

(begin chapter 2)

1 My brothers,

show no partiality

Greek: *προσωπολημψία · prosōpolēmpsia (proh-soh-poh-laymp-SEE-ah). Favoritism or unequal treatment based on a*

person's standing. The rich and poor visitors in 2:2–4 make the problem concrete.

as you hold the faith

in our Lord Jesus Christ,

the Lord of glory.

Leviticus 19:15 1 Corinthians 2:8

2 For if a man wearing a gold ring

and fine clothing

comes into your assembly,

Greek: *συναγωγή · synagōgē (soo-nah-goh-GAY). An assembly or gathering; also a synagogue or meeting place. James uses it for the readers' gathered community.*

and a poor man in shabby clothing

also comes in,

Luke 16:19

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,”

Luke 14:10

4 have you not then made distinctions

among yourselves

and become judges

with evil thoughts?

John 7:24

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?

1 Corinthians 1:26–28 Luke 6:20

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?

Proverbs 14:31

7 Are they not the ones who blaspheme

the honorable name

by which you were called?

1 Peter 4:14

8 If you really fulfill the royal law

Greek: *βασιλικός · basilikos (bah-see-lee-KOSS). Royal, belonging to a king. It marks the command to love one's neighbor as carrying kingly authority and a governing place in conduct.*

according to the Scripture,

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself,"

you are doing well.

Leviticus 19:18

9 But if you show partiality,

you are committing sin

and are convicted by the law

as transgressors.

Acts 10:34

10 For whoever keeps the whole law

but fails in one point

Greek: *πταίω · ptaiō (PTYE-oh). To stumble; figuratively, to fail morally or transgress. The same verb occurs in 3:2 when James speaks of everyone’s failures.*

has become guilty of all of it.

Galatians 3:10

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.

Exodus 20:13–14 Romans 13:9

12 So speak

and so act

as those who are to be judged

under the law of liberty.

2 Corinthians 5:10

13 For judgment is without mercy

to one who has shown no mercy.

Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Greek: *κατακαυχάομαι · katakauchaomai (kah-tah-kow-KHAH-oh-my). To exult or boast over. James personifies mercy as victorious over judgment.*

Matthew 5:7 Matthew 18:33

14 What good is it,

my brothers,

if someone says he has faith

but does not have works?

Can that faith save him?

Matthew 7:21

15 If a brother or sister

is poorly clothed

and lacking in daily food,

Matthew 25:35–36

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?

1 John 3:17–18

17 So also faith by itself,

if it does not have works,

Greek: *ἔργον · ergon (ER-gon). A deed or action. Here the plural points to faith expressed in actual conduct, including meeting the needs described in 2:15–16.*

is dead.

Titus 1:16

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.

Matthew 7:20

19 You believe that God is one;

you do well.

Even the demons believe—and shudder!

Greek: *φρίσσω · phrissō (FRISS-soh). To shudder or tremble with fear. The demons' reaction shows that acknowledging a truth can coexist with hostility to God.*

Deuteronomy 6:4 Mark 1:24

20 Do you want to be shown,

you foolish person,

that faith apart from works

is useless?

1 Corinthians 13:2

21 Was not Abraham our father

justified by works

when he offered up his son Isaac

on the altar?

Genesis 22:9–10 Hebrews 11:17

22 You see

that faith was active along with his works,

Greek: *συνεργέω · synergeō (soon-er-GEH-oh). To work together with. Abraham's faith was cooperating with his actions, rather than remaining an isolated claim.*

and faith was completed

Greek: *τελειόω · teleioō (teh-lay-OH-oh). To bring to completion or maturity. Abraham's actions brought his faith to its intended expression.*

by his works;

Galatians 5:6 1 Thessalonians 1:3

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.

Genesis 15:6 Isaiah 41:8

24 You see

that a person is justified by works

Greek: *δικαιόω · dikaioō (dee-kye-OH-oh). To justify, declare righteous, or vindicate, according to context. Read this with Abraham's active faith in 2:21–23; a dictionary gloss alone does not settle the faith-and-works debate.*

and not by faith alone.

Romans 2:6–7 Ephesians 2:10

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?

Hebrews 11:31

26 For as the body apart from the spirit

is dead,

so also faith apart from works

is dead.

Revelation 3:1

(begin chapter 3)

1 Not many of you should become teachers,

my brothers,

for you know

that we who teach

will be judged with greater strictness.

Greek: *κρίμα · krima (KREE-mah). Judgment or a judicial decision. The Greek expression is “greater judgment,” underscoring the responsibility that accompanies teaching.*

Luke 12:48

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.

Greek: *χαλιναγωγέω · chalinagōgeō (khah-lee-nah-goh-GEH-oh). To lead with a bridle; figuratively, to restrain or control. James extends the image from speech to the whole person.*

Matthew 12:37

3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses

so that they obey us,

we guide their whole bodies as well.

Psalm 32:9

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.

Acts 27:40

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!

Psalm 12:3 Proverbs 26:20

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.

Proverbs 16:27 Matthew 15:18

7 For every kind of beast and bird,

of reptile and sea creature,

can be tamed

and has been tamed by mankind,

Genesis 1:28

8 but no human being can tame the tongue.

It is a restless evil,

Greek: *ἀκατάστατος · akatastatos (ah-kah-TAH-stah-toss). Unsettled or unstable. It depicts the tongue's disturbing, hard-to-control character; the same adjective describes the double-minded person in 1:8.*

full of deadly poison.

Psalm 140:3

9 With it we bless our Lord and Father,

and with it we curse people

who are made in the likeness of God.

Greek: *ὁμοίωσις · homoiōsis (hoh-MOY-oh-siss). Likeness or resemblance. The language recalls humanity's creation in God's likeness and grounds James's objection to cursing people.*

Genesis 1:27 Genesis 9:6

10 From the same mouth

come blessing and cursing.

My brothers,

these things ought not to be so.

Psalm 62:4

11 Does a spring pour forth

from the same opening

both fresh and salt water?

Proverbs 10:11

12 Can a fig tree,

my brothers,

bear olives,

or a grapevine produce figs?

Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

Matthew 7:16

13 Who is wise and understanding among you?

By his good conduct

let him show his works

in the meekness of wisdom.

Greek: *πραΰτης · prautēs (prah-OO-tays). Gentleness or meekness. Here wisdom is demonstrated by humble, considerate conduct.*

1 Peter 2:12

14 But if you have bitter jealousy

and selfish ambition in your hearts,

Greek: *ἐριθεία · eritheia (eh-rih-THAY-ah). Self-seeking ambition or rivalry. James contrasts this divisive drive with the peaceful character of wisdom from above.*

do not boast

and be false to the truth.

1 Corinthians 3:3

15 This is not the wisdom

that comes down from above,

but is earthly,

unspiritual,

Greek: *ψυχικός · psychikos (psoo-khee-KOSS). Natural or unspiritual. Here it describes wisdom confined to merely human impulses, in contrast to wisdom that comes from God.*

demonic.

2 Corinthians 1:12

16 For where jealousy

and selfish ambition exist,

there will be disorder

and every vile practice.

1 Corinthians 14:33

17 But the wisdom from above

is first pure,

then peaceable,

gentle,

Greek: *ἐπιεικής · epieikēs (eh-pee-ay-KAYSS). Considerate, fair, or forbearing. It describes a gracious disposition toward others.*

open to reason,

Greek: *εὐπειθής · eupeithēs (yoo-pay-THAYSS). Willing to listen or yield to persuasion; responsive and teachable. This quality fits wisdom that seeks peace.*

full of mercy and good fruits,

impartial and sincere.

Greek: *ἀδιάκριτος · adiakritos (ah-dee-AH-kree-toss). Rendered impartial here; also understood as unwavering or without uncertainty. The precise nuance is debated, but it belongs to James's portrait of consistent, peaceable wisdom.*

Galatians 5:22–23 Romans 12:9

18 And a harvest of righteousness

is sown in peace

by those who make peace.

Matthew 5:9 Hebrews 12:11

(begin chapter 4)

1 What causes quarrels

and what causes fights among you?

Is it not this,

that your passions are at war within you?

Greek: *ἡδονή · hēdonē (hay-doh-NAY). Pleasure or enjoyment. In this context the plural describes self-serving cravings for pleasure that fuel conflict.*

1 Peter 2:11

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.

John 16:24

3 You ask and do not receive,

because you ask wrongly,

to spend it on your passions.

1 John 5:14 Psalm 66:18

4 You adulterous people!

Do you not know

that friendship with the world

Greek: *κόσμος · kosmos (KOSS-moss). World. Here the surrounding contrast with God gives it an ethical sense: human values and allegiances opposed to God.*

is enmity with God?

Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend

of the world

makes himself an enemy of God.

John 15:19

5 Or do you suppose

it is to no purpose that the Scripture says,

“He yearns jealously over the spirit

Greek: *ἐπιποθέω · epipotheō (eh-pee-poh-THEH-oh). To long for or desire. The verb alone does not identify who is yearning or what “spirit” means; the sentence has several disputed interpretations.*

that he has made to dwell in us”?

Exodus 34:14 1 Corinthians 6:19

6 But he gives more grace.

Greek: *χάρις · charis (KHAH-riss). Favor, kindness, or a gracious gift. Here God’s generous favor is given to the humble amid the call to turn back to him.*

Therefore it says,

“God opposes the proud

but gives grace to the humble.”

Proverbs 3:34 1 Peter 5:5

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God.

Greek: *ὑποτάσσω · hypotassō (hoo-poh-TAHS-soh). To place under authority; here, to submit oneself to God. The command calls for a willing response to God’s rule.*

Resist the devil,

and he will flee from you.

1 Peter 5:8–9

8 Draw near to God,

and he will draw near to you.

Cleanse your hands,

you sinners,

and purify your hearts,

Greek: *ἁγνίζω · hagnizō (hahg-NEE-zoh). To purify or cleanse from defilement. With “hearts,” the cleansing language concerns inward moral renewal.*

you double-minded.

Zechariah 1:3 Psalm 24:3–4

9 Be wretched and mourn and weep.

Let your laughter be turned to mourning

and your joy to gloom.

Matthew 5:4

10 Humble yourselves before the Lord,

and he will exalt you.

1 Peter 5:6

11 Do not speak evil against one another,

Greek: *καταλαλέω · katalaleō (kah-tah-lah-LEH-oh). To speak against or disparage another person. James warns against speech that assumes a condemning position over a fellow believer.*

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.

Matthew 7:1

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?

Isaiah 33:22 Romans 14:4

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”—

Luke 12:18–19 Proverbs 27:1

14 yet you do not know

what tomorrow will bring.

What is your life?

For you are a mist

Greek: *ἀτμίς · atmis (aht-MEESS). Vapor or mist. The image stresses life's brevity and the limits of confident plans about tomorrow.*

that appears for a little time

and then vanishes.

Psalm 39:5

15 Instead you ought to say,

"If the Lord wills,

we will live

and do this or that."

Acts 18:21

16 As it is,

you boast in your arrogance.

All such boasting is evil.

1 John 2:16

17 So whoever knows the right thing to do

and fails to do it,

for him it is sin.

Luke 12:47

(begin chapter 5)

1 Come now,

you rich,

weep and howl

for the miseries that are coming upon you.

Luke 6:24

2 Your riches have rotted

and your garments are moth-eaten.

Matthew 6:19–20

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.

Luke 12:21 Romans 2:5

4 Behold,

the wages of the laborers

who mowed your fields,

which you kept back by fraud,

Greek: *ἀφυστερέω · aphystereō (ah-foo-steh-REH-oh). To keep back or withhold. Here it describes wages wrongfully withheld from workers.*

are crying out against you,

and the cries of the harvesters

have reached the ears

of the Lord of hosts.

Greek: *σαβαώθ · sabaōth (sah-bah-OHTH). A Hebrew word carried into Greek, meaning hosts or armies. The title presents God as the Lord whose power answers the cries of exploited workers.*

Leviticus 19:13 Deuteronomy 24:14–15

5 You have lived on the earth

in luxury

and in self-indulgence.

You have fattened your hearts

in a day of slaughter.

Luke 16:25

6 You have condemned

and murdered the righteous person.

He does not resist you.

Acts 7:52

7 Be patient, therefore,

Greek: *μακροθυμέω · makrothymeō (mah-kroh-thoo-MEH-oh). To be patient or long-suffering. The farmer's waiting illustrates sustained patience as believers await the Lord.*

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.

Galatians 6:9 Deuteronomy 11:14

8 You also,

be patient.

Establish your hearts,

Greek: *στηρίζω · stērizō (stay-REE-zoh). To make firm, strengthen, or establish. Here the readers are to steady their hearts while they wait.*

for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

1 Thessalonians 3:13 Philippians 4:5

9 Do not grumble against one another,

brothers,

so that you may not be judged;

behold,

the Judge is standing at the door.

Matthew 24:33

10 As an example of suffering and patience,

brothers,

take the prophets

who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Hebrews 6:12

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

Greek: *πολύσπλαγχνος · polysplanchnos (poh-LOO-splahn-khnoss). Deeply compassionate or full of pity. James highlights the Lord's tender concern alongside his mercy.*

and merciful.

Job 1:21–22 Psalm 103:8

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.

Matthew 5:34–37

13 Is anyone among you suffering?

Let him pray.

Is anyone cheerful?

Let him sing praise.

Greek: *ψάλλω · psallō (PSAHL-loh). To sing praise. Its New Testament use here calls the cheerful person to respond to God with song.*

Psalm 50:15 Colossians 3:16

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

Greek: *ἀλείφω · aleiphō (ah-LAY-foh). To anoint or apply oil. Here the elders anoint the sick person while praying in the Lord’s name; the word alone does not define the oil’s precise role.*

in the name of the Lord.

Mark 6:13 Acts 14:23

15 And the prayer of faith

will save the one who is sick,

Greek: *σῴζω · sōzō (SOH-zoh). To save, rescue, or restore to health. Here the context includes healing and forgiveness; the word alone does not settle how or when the promised restoration occurs.*

and the Lord will raise him up.

And if he has committed sins,

he will be forgiven.

Psalm 103:3

16 Therefore,

confess your sins to one another

Greek: *ἐξομολογέω · exomologeō (ex-oh-moh-loh-GEH-oh). To acknowledge or confess. James calls for honest acknowledgment of sins within a community that prays for 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.

Greek: *ἐνεργέω · energeō (eh-ner-GEH-oh). To work or be effective. The form here describes prayer in its effective working; it is not a technical measure of emotional intensity.*

1 John 1:9 Proverbs 15:29

17 Elijah was a man

with a nature like ours,

Greek: *ὁμοιοπαθής · homoiopathēs (hoh-moy-oh-pah-THAYSS). Sharing the same human feelings or experiences. Elijah's example is that of a fellow human being who prayed.*

and he prayed fervently

that it might not rain,

and for three years and six months

it did not rain on the earth.

1 Kings 17:1 Luke 4:25

18 Then he prayed again,

and heaven gave rain,

and the earth bore its fruit.

1 Kings 18:42 1 Kings 18:45

19 My brothers,

if anyone among you wanders from the truth

and someone brings him back,

Galatians 6:1

20 let him know

that whoever brings back a sinner

Greek: *ἐπιστρέφω · epistrephō (eh-pee-STREH-foh). To turn or bring back. Here it describes helping someone return from wandering into sin and away from the truth.*

from his wandering

will save his soul from death

and will cover a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:8 Proverbs 10:12

Scripture references

Selected ESV passages for comparison and meditation. Each return link leads back to the verse where the reference appears.

Galatians 1:19

But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

Return to James 1:1

1 Peter 1:6

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,

Return to James 1:2

Romans 5:3–4

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,

Return to James 1:3

1 Peter 1:7

so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Return to James 1:3

Colossians 4:12

Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.

Return to James 1:4

Proverbs 2:6

For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;

Return to James 1:5

Matthew 7:7

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Return to James 1:5

Mark 11:24

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Return to James 1:6

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Return to James 1:7

Psalm 86:11

Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.

Return to James 1:8

James 2:5

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?

Return to James 1:9

Isaiah 40:6–8

A voice says, “Cry!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Return to James 1:10

Psalm 103:15–16

As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

Return to James 1:11

Revelation 2:10

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Return to James 1:12

2 Timothy 4:8

Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that

day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Return to James 1:12

1 John 1:5

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

Return to James 1:13

Genesis 3:6

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Return to James 1:14

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Return to James 1:15

Galatians 6:7

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

Return to James 1:16

Malachi 3:6

“For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

Return to James 1:17

Matthew 7:11

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Return to James 1:17

John 1:13

who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Return to James 1:18

1 Peter 1:23

since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;

Return to James 1:18

Proverbs 10:19

When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.

Return to James 1:19

Ecclesiastes 7:9

Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the heart of fools.

Return to James 1:19

Proverbs 14:29

Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly.

Return to James 1:20

1 Peter 2:1–2

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—

Return to James 1:21

Matthew 7:24

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Return to James 1:22

Luke 6:49

But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.”

Return to James 1:23

Ezekiel 33:31

And they come to you as people come, and they sit before you as my people, and they hear what you say but they will not do it; for with lustful talk in their mouths they act; their heart is set on their gain.

Return to James 1:24

Psalm 19:7

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

Return to James 1:25

John 13:17

If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Return to James 1:25

Psalm 34:13

Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

Return to James 1:26

Isaiah 1:17

learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

Return to James 1:27

1 John 2:15

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Return to James 1:27

Leviticus 19:15

“You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.

Return to James 2:1

1 Corinthians 2:8

None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Return to James 2:1

Luke 16:19

“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day.

Return to James 2:2

Luke 14:10

But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you.

Return to James 2:3

John 7:24

Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.”

Return to James 2:4

1 Corinthians 1:26–28

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,

Return to James 2:5

Luke 6:20

And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

Return to James 2:5

Proverbs 14:31

Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him.

Return to James 2:6

1 Peter 4:14

If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

Return to James 2:7

Leviticus 19:18

You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Return to James 2:8

Acts 10:34

So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality,

Return to James 2:9

Galatians 3:10

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”

Return to James 2:10

Exodus 20:13–14

“You shall not murder. “You shall not commit adultery.

Return to James 2:11

Romans 13:9

For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Return to James 2:11

2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Return to James 2:12

Matthew 5:7

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Return to James 2:13

Matthew 18:33

And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’

Return to James 2:13

Matthew 7:21

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Return to James 2:14

Matthew 25:35–36

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’

Return to James 2:15

1 John 3:17–18

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Return to James 2:16

Titus 1:16

They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

Return to James 2:17

Matthew 7:20

Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

Return to James 2:18

Deuteronomy 6:4

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

Return to James 2:19

Mark 1:24

“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.”

Return to James 2:19

1 Corinthians 13:2

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

Return to James 2:20

Genesis 22:9–10

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

Return to James 2:21

Hebrews 11:17

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son,

Return to James 2:21

Galatians 5:6

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

Return to James 2:22

1 Thessalonians 1:3

remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Return to James 2:22

Genesis 15:6

And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Return to James 2:23

Isaiah 41:8

But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend;

Return to James 2:23

Romans 2:6–7

He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life;

Return to James 2:24

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Return to James 2:24

Hebrews 11:31

By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

Return to James 2:25

Revelation 3:1

“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ‘The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. “‘I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

Return to James 2:26

Luke 12:48

But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

Return to James 3:1

Matthew 12:37

for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Return to James 3:2

Psalm 32:9

Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.

Return to James 3:3

Acts 27:40

So they cast off the anchors and left them in the sea, at the same time loosening the ropes that tied the rudders. Then hoisting the foresail to the wind they made for the beach.

Return to James 3:4

Psalm 12:3

May the LORD cut off all flattering lips, the tongue that makes great boasts,

Return to James 3:5

Proverbs 26:20

For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases.

Return to James 3:5

Proverbs 16:27

A worthless man plots evil, and his speech is like a scorching fire.

Return to James 3:6

Matthew 15:18

But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person.

Return to James 3:6

Genesis 1:28

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Return to James 3:7

Psalm 140:3

They make their tongue sharp as a serpent's, and under their lips is the venom of asps. Selah

Return to James 3:8

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Return to James 3:9

Genesis 9:6

“Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.

Return to James 3:9

Psalm 62:4

They only plan to thrust him down from his high position. They take pleasure in falsehood. They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse. Selah

Return to James 3:10

Proverbs 10:11

The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

Return to James 3:11

Matthew 7:16

You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

Return to James 3:12

1 Peter 2:12

Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Return to James 3:13

1 Corinthians 3:3

for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?

Return to James 3:14

2 Corinthians 1:12

For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you.

Return to James 3:15

1 Corinthians 14:33

For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints,

Return to James 3:16

Galatians 5:22–23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Return to James 3:17

Romans 12:9

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

Return to James 3:17

Matthew 5:9

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Return to James 3:18

Hebrews 12:11

For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Return to James 3:18

1 Peter 2:11

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

Return to James 4:1

John 16:24

Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

Return to James 4:2

1 John 5:14

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

Return to James 4:3

Psalm 66:18

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

Return to James 4:3

John 15:19

If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

Return to James 4:4

Exodus 34:14

(for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God),

Return to James 4:5

1 Corinthians 6:19

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,

Return to James 4:5

Proverbs 3:34

Toward the scorners he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor.

Return to James 4:6

1 Peter 5:5

Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

Return to James 4:6

1 Peter 5:8–9

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

Return to James 4:7

Zechariah 1:3

Therefore say to them, Thus declares the LORD of hosts: Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts.

Return to James 4:8

Psalm 24:3–4

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

Return to James 4:8

Matthew 5:4

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Return to James 4:9

1 Peter 5:6

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,

Return to James 4:10

Matthew 7:1

“Judge not, that you be not judged.

Return to James 4:11

Isaiah 33:22

For the LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our king; he will save us.

Return to James 4:12

Romans 14:4

Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

Return to James 4:12

Luke 12:18–19

And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’

Return to James 4:13

Proverbs 27:1

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.

Return to James 4:13

Psalm 39:5

Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath! Selah

Return to James 4:14

Acts 18:21

But on taking leave of them he said, “I will return to you if God wills,” and he set sail from Ephesus.

Return to James 4:15

1 John 2:16

For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

Return to James 4:16

Luke 12:47

And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating.

Return to James 4:17

Luke 6:24

“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

Return to James 5:1

Matthew 6:19–20

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Return to James 5:2

Luke 12:21

So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

Return to James 5:3

Romans 2:5

But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

Return to James 5:3

Leviticus 19:13

“You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning.

Return to James 5:4

Deuteronomy 24:14–15

“You shall not oppress a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your brothers or one of the sojourners who are in your land within your towns. You shall give him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets (for he is poor and counts on it), lest he cry against you to the LORD, and you be guilty of sin.

Return to James 5:4

Luke 16:25

But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.

Return to James 5:5

Acts 7:52

Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of

the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered,

Return to James 5:6

Galatians 6:9

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Return to James 5:7

Deuteronomy 11:14

he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil.

Return to James 5:7

1 Thessalonians 3:13

so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Return to James 5:8

Philippians 4:5

Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;

Return to James 5:8

Matthew 24:33

So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

Return to James 5:9

Hebrews 6:12

so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Return to James 5:10

Job 1:21–22

And he said, “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.” In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

Return to James 5:11

Psalm 103:8

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Return to James 5:11

Matthew 5:34–37

But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not

take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

Return to James 5:12

Psalm 50:15

and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

Return to James 5:13

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Return to James 5:13

Mark 6:13

And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

Return to James 5:14

Acts 14:23

And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Return to James 5:14

Psalm 103:3

who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

Return to James 5:15

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Return to James 5:16

Proverbs 15:29

The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

Return to James 5:16

1 Kings 17:1

Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.”

Return to James 5:17

Luke 4:25

But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land,

Return to James 5:17

1 Kings 18:42

So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel. And he bowed himself down on the earth and put his face between his knees.

Return to James 5:18

1 Kings 18:45

And in a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel.

Return to James 5:18

Galatians 6:1

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Return to James 5:19

1 Peter 4:8

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

Return to James 5:20

Proverbs 10:12

Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.

Return to James 5:20

Greek sources and text note

Greek dictionary forms and their occurrence were checked against the SBL Greek New Testament. Lexical ranges were checked in G. Abbott-Smith's A Manual Greek Lexicon of the New Testament. The brief notes apply those meanings to the immediate passage; the form in a verse may differ from its dictionary form.

Pronunciations are English-friendly classroom aids, not a reconstruction of first-century speech or modern Greek. CAPITALS mark stress; ay sounds like "day," eye like "eye," oh like "go," oo like "food," and kh approximates the ch in "loch."

The Greek New Testament: SBL Edition, James

A Manual Greek Lexicon of the New Testament

NET Bible translators' notes on James 4:5

Confirms ambiguity over the referent of spirit and the subject and sense of yearning.

NET Bible translators' notes on James 3:17

Supports willing to yield/open to persuasion and the rendering impartial.

Cornerstone Biblical Commentary, Volume 18: James, 1–2 Peter, Jude; Revelation, p. 24

Publisher-hosted discussion identifying the debated nuances of haplōs.

Greek notes are commentary, not additional Scripture. Cross-references are selected connections and should be read in their own context. Interpretive alternatives are noted where a Greek word alone cannot resolve them.

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