

James 1 Summarized

Sentences

1:1, James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.

1:2-5, my brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

1:6-8, but let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; *he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

1:9-11, let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.

1:12, blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

1:13-15, let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

1:16-18, do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

1:19-20, so then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

1:21, therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

1:22-25, but be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

1:26-27, if anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion *is* useless. Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

Paragraphs

1:1-8, James writes to the Jewish Christians scattered abroad. He tells them to look for the silver lining in every trial they face. Because when they allow what they believe to be tested, it will produce endurance. And if they let endurance do its perfect work, they'll be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. And if anyone lacks wisdom, they can ask God (He's a very generous Giver) and He'll give it to them without scolding them. But when they ask, they must ask without doubting God. He who doubts is like a wind-driven wave that is tossed every which way. This doubting individual won't get anything from the Lord; he's a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

1:9-11, the poor brother needs to glory in the way God will exalt him [i.e., God is going to use the poverty trial to make him perfect and complete and reward him with the crown of life, 1:2-5, 12]. But the rich brother needs to glory in the way God keeps him humble, i.e., the rich who pursue wealth are destroyed by their wealth. But the rich who pass the wealth trial are protected by God.

1:12-18, blessed is the one who endures trials because when he's been found tried-and-true, the Lord will give him the crown of life. But let no one say when they go through a trial, "I was tempted by God." God can't be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. Each one is enticed by his own desires. Then, when desire conceives, it gives birth to sin. Then sin, when it's full-grown, gives birth to death. We must not be deceived: every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of lights who never changes. He gave birth to us by the Word of truth so that we would be the firstfruits of His creatures.

1:19-20, so then, every one of us must be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for man's wrath cannot produce God's righteousness.

1:21-25, therefore, we must set aside all manner of sin and humbly receive God's embedded Word which is able to save our lives. But we must do what God's Word says not simply hear it, deceiving ourselves. Anyone who hears God's Word but doesn't do what it says, is like a man who observes the face of his new-birth in a mirror. He observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and is not a forgetful hearer but does what God's Word says, this one will be blessed in what he does.

1:26-27, anyone who thinks he's religious but fails to control his tongue deceives himself; his religion is useless. Pure and undefiled religion before God is this: to visit orphans and widows in their need, keeping oneself unspotted from the world.

Whole Chapter

James tells the Jewish Christians scattered abroad that they need to see the silver lining in every trial they face. Because the testing of what they believe will ultimately leave them individuals who are perfect and lack nothing. If any of them lack wisdom, they can ask God and He'll give it to them without scolding them. But they must ask without doubting. The one who doubts won't get anything from the Lord; he's a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. If you're poor, God will use this test to make you perfect. If you're rich, God will use this test to keep you humble and thereby protect you from your wealth. Those who endure their trials are blessed: the Lord makes them perfect. Let no one accuse God of tempting them during their trials; God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone. We're enticed by our own desires, which give birth to sin, which give birth to death. We must not be deceived: God only fathers good and perfect gifts. He gave birth to us by the Word of truth. So, we must be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath. Therefore, we must avoid all sin and humbly receive God's embedded Word, which will save our lives. We must do what God's Word says, not simply hear it. If we fail to do what it says, we fail to live up to our new birth. But if we do what God says, we'll be blessed in all we do. Anyone who thinks he's religious but fails to control his tongue is deceived and their religion is useless. Pure religion is this: to visit orphans and widows in their need, keeping oneself unspotted from the world.