

## Repeated Words, Themes, and Ideas

4. Following Satan/World (Pride) vs. Following God (Humility), Instead of thinking they can control their future—assuming that next year's business will yield a profit when they don't even have control of whether or not they'll be alive tomorrow—they should rather say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that," 4:13-17 (other places this appears: 1:2-8, 9-11, 12-18, 19-25, 26-27; 2:1-7, 8-13, 14-17, 18-26; 3:1-12, 13-18)
5. Satan / Hell, James' audience needs to resist the Devil and he will flee from them, 4:7 (other places this appears: 1:13-15, 22-24, 26; 2:4, 18-19; 3:6, 9-10, 14-16).
6. Brethren, James' audience must not speak evil of or judge their brethren. The one who does so speaks evil of and judges the Law, which makes them a Judge of God's Law, 4:11 (other places this appears: 1:2, 16, 18, 19; 2:1, 5, 14, 15-16; 3:1, 10-12).

We also covered the question, "**Is it possible to be a Christian and participate in sin [i.e., is a sinning Christian saved]?**" Yes, it's possible to be a Christian and participate in sin. Christians can live in sin and still be saved, e.g., the Corinthians (and king David when he murdered Uriah after he got Uriah's wife pregnant, 2 Samuel 11).

But doesn't 1 Corinthians 6:9 say that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Yes, it does. But notice that it says "inherit" not "enter." This passage is talking about inheriting the kingdom not entering it. There's a difference between entering a family (being born into a family) and inheriting something because you're part of that family. You enter the family by being born into it. You get an inheritance after your parents die and often your inheritance has to do with whether or not you were a good son or daughter. But being born into the family has nothing to do with you; nor do you have to do anything to be born into the family. That is, your behavior good or bad has nothing to do with your birth. Likewise, being born again into God's family is by faith alone (Ephesians 2:8-9); your behavior good or bad has nothing to do with it.

In answering this question we also covered these passages:

Revelation 20:11-15, the Final Judgment is for those who are dead not for those who have eternal life. Thus, born again Christians will not be at this judgment because they are alive; they went from death to life the instant they believed in Jesus (John 5:24), which means that they escape the Final Judgment (John 5:24). And sin is not brought up at the Final Judgment because all sin was paid for by Jesus on the Cross (John 1:29). This judgment concerns good works, i.e., every dead individual will get an opportunity to convince God that they are good enough to enter heaven. But no one qualifies because "there is none who does good, no, not one" (Romans 3:12). The only one who is good is God (Matthew 19:17). Therefore, all the dead end up in the Lake of Fire, not because of their sins, but because they lack eternal life, which is why their names aren't written in the Book of Life (Revelation 20:15).

2 Timothy 2:11-13, since we died with Jesus, i.e., since we were identified with His death the instant we believed in Him (Romans 6:1-4), we shall also live with Him forever. If we endure, i.e., faithfully serve Jesus in this lifetime (2 Timothy 1-10), then we shall reign with Him. If we deny Him our endurance, then He will deny us reigning with Him. BUT even if we become so faithless to Him that we even stop believing in Him, He still won't deny us our eternal salvation. Why? Because that would be like denying Himself, i.e., since we are a permanent part of His Body (Ephesians 4:15-16; Colossians 1:18, 24; 2 Corinthians 5:17), He cannot deny us; that would be to deny Himself.