

From Trials to Triumph

James 1:1-18

Key Verse: 12

1. Read verse 1-18. Who was the author of this letter? (Matt 13:55, Mark 6:3, Luke 24:10, Gal 1:19) When did James become a disciple of Jesus? (1 Cor 15:7) What stature did he have in the early church? (Acts 1:13-14, 12:17, 15:13, 21:17-19)
2. To whom was he writing this letter? When? Why? Notice the three themes; hardship, perseverance, and wisdom. What does James say is the purpose for hardship? (James 1:2-3, Romans 5:1-5, 1 Peter 1:3-9)
3. What does he tell us about perseverance? (Romans 2:7, 8:24-25, 2 Cor 6:3-7, 2 Peter 1:3-9) Where does he tell us to seek wisdom? (James 1:5, Job 28:28, Ps 111:10, Prov 2:6 and 29:15, 1 Cor 12:8, Col 3:16. Also see first four chapters of Proverbs) How should we treat doubt? (Ps 33:4, Matt 21:21-22)
4. What is the "spiritual contradiction" raised in vs. 9-11? (See the parable of the sower in Mark 4:3-20 for Jesus' words on this subject.) In what should we take pride? (vs 9, Romans 15:17, Gal 6:4) What is the difference between God's view of wealth and the world's view?
5. What is the difference between a "trial" and a "temptation"? Where do temptations come from? (Matt 4:1, 18:7-9, Mark 9:42-50, 1 Cor 7:5) How should we deal with temptation? (Matt 4:1-11, 26:41, Luke 22:40, 46, 1 Cor 10:13, Heb 4:15, 2 Tim 2:22, 1 Peter 5:8) What is the difference between the "birth description" in verse 15 and verse 18? How would you summarize the first 18 verses of James? What actions are called for?