

A watercolor illustration of various flowers and greenery. At the top, there are large pink and orange peonies, smaller purple and orange flowers, and green leaves. A large, light green leafy branch arches over the text. At the bottom, there are more pink and orange peonies, purple flowers, and green leaves.

JAMES

*Learning to Walk in
Genuine Faith*

Lisa Morris

James

Learning to Walk in Genuine Faith

@ Lisa Morris

James: Learning to Walk in Genuine Faith

Copyright © 2018 by Lisa Morris

All rights reserved. This book or any portion thereof may not be reproduced or used in any manner whatsoever without the express written permission of the publisher except for the use of brief quotations.

First Printing 2018

ISBN 978-0-359-21588-1

Conforming to the Truth
471 Defeated Creek Road
Centerville, TN, 37033

www.conformingtothetruth.com

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New American Standard Version "Scripture is taken from the New American Standard Bible (R), Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

Table of Contents

- Why and How We Study the Scriptures ----- pg. 4-7
- How to Use this Study ----- pg. 8
- Lesson 1—James 1:1-8 ----- pg. 9-18
- Lesson 2—James 1:9-19 ----- pg. 19-38
- Lesson 3—James 1:19-27 ----- pg. 39-51
- Lesson 4—James 2:1-13 ----- pg. 52-61
- Lesson 5—James 2:14-26 ----- pg. 62-70
- Lesson 6—James 3:1-12 ----- pg. 71-79
- Lesson 7—James 3:13-4:1-10 ----- pg. 80-92
- Lesson 8—James 4:11-17 ----- pg. 93-102
- Lesson 9—James 5:1-12 ----- pg.103-112
- Lesson 10—James 5:13-20 ----- pg. 113-120

Why and How We Study the Scriptures

It is essential for every Christian to know why we study the Scriptures and how to study. Teachers and preachers of God's word are vitally important to us. They are God-given and equipped to teach and preach. However, you and I must learn to study the word of God for ourselves. Peter explains that we should be able to give an account of the hope that is within us (1 Peter 3:15). Our hope is in Christ Jesus, the gospel of truth. We must grow in our knowledge of God and what He has done through His Son. This maturity only comes through the study of God's word. I learned a long time ago that I must own my faith. I cannot live off of someone else's. Neither can you.

I mentioned earlier there are preachers and teachers of God's word. Our generation is not lacking in this area. However, all of the teachers and preachers we are exposed to are not preaching and teaching a true gospel. We are warned over and over in the word of God to watch out for false teachers and to test the spirits to see if they are from God. Without a working knowledge of God's Word, how can you and I know what is truth and what is false? We cannot!

The Attributes of the Bible

Before we get into the how of study, I think we would be wise to look at the attributes of the Bible. I encounter many people who say they believe every word of the Bible but in reality have no idea what the Bible teaches let alone what the Bible teaches about itself.

The Bible is the breathed out an inspired word of God. It is GOD'S WORD. The Bible is the revelation of what God teaches about who He is and about His gospel.

There are several attributes of the Bible that we need to know and keep in mind as we read and study. Without the conviction of these truths, we can and will waver in our security of God's Word.

1. God's word is infallible, without mistakes. The Bible is without any errors and is perfect because it is just that, God's Word. Psalm 19:7 says of itself, "The Law of the LORD is perfect." It goes without saying that if God is perfect then His word, Our Bible, is excellent.
2. God's word is inerrant. Inerrant means the Bible is incapable of being wrong. Every word of God is pure and true. Psalm 12:6, "The words of the Lord are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times."
3. God's word is complete. Many believe that God still gives revelation today. They do not believe that the sixty-six books we have are complete. However, the book of Revelation ends with a testimony of its completeness and warning. Revelation 22:18-19, "I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book: and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of prophecy, God will take away his part in the tree of life from the holy city, which are written in this book."
4. God's word is our final authority. "The Lord has spoken" (Isaiah 1:2). You and I can ask questions of the Bible. We can discuss the meanings of the Bible. But we must never question the Bible nor discuss whether or not it is true.
5. God's word is sufficient. God's word is enough, and it is adequate. Peter teaches that God has given us everything we need for life and for godliness (2 Peter 1:3).

The word of God is sufficient for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are able to make us wise unto salvation. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the words of Christ (Romans 10:17). The word of God is sufficient for growing in maturity. God's word is alive and active (Hebrews 4:12) and it is profitable for reproof, correction, and training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

How We Study the Bible

This bible study is written to take you through each verse and chapter of the book in which you are studying. Its approach is not to ask what does the text mean to me but rather what does the text say? You will not find fluff nor words that pet the flesh and make you feel good about yourself. It will, however, build you up in the truth and knowledge of God and His word.

We will use four steps of reading and studying the Bible.

1. Prayer: Commit this study to prayer. Proverbs 2:3 says, "If you cry for discernment, lift your voice for understanding, then you will discern the fear of the Lord and discover the knowledge of God." Crying and raising our voices to God is prayer. It is humbling ourselves before the God of the universe recognizing our need and guidance from Him. If we call to Him He tells us He will answer and tell us great and unsearchable things we do not know (Jeremiah 33:3)! The Lord gives wisdom and from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.
2. Observation: Observing the text is the act of noting and recording facts and events. Not only will you be answering questions from the book, but you will also be reading the text of God's word many times. Observation answers the question, "What does the text say?" The process of reading the book and answering questions from the text is going to be work on your part. Some days more work than others. There are times when reading a short devotion is acceptable, but it cannot be our only food. You, dear sister, are equipped with a teacher, the Holy Spirit of God, that will teach and bring you to the knowledge of the truth. Dig deep into God's word and never be afraid.

3. Interpretation: Interpretation answers the question, “What does the text mean?” After reading the text several times and answering the study questions, you will understand what God meant and be able to explain it. (A side note: there are times that we will not have a complete understanding of the passage we are studying. Rely on the guidance and teaching of God’s Spirit. Do not get discouraged. Continue to pray and ask for wisdom. God will give it to you in His timing.) Coming to accurate interpretation involves several steps: Reading the text and answering the study questions which also include cross-referencing and word studies. Once you have taken these steps, you will be ready for accurate application.

4. Application: After observation, interpretation, and continual prayer, you are ready to ask the question, “How does the meaning of this passage apply to me?” “What does God want me to do with what I have learned?” The answer to these two questions is quite simple! God wants you to know Him, to glorify Him, and enjoy Him forever. He also desires a changed life. Discovering the truths of God’s word and applying them accurately does not happen overnight. Learning requires a lifetime of study and discipline!

How to Use This Study

You are encouraged to work through your lesson consistently. I recommend studying a few questions a day. Do not try to work through a complete lesson in one sitting. You will be overwhelmed and not retain all you need to know. This study is written for you to do on your own. However, you could gather a few friends and study together. Decide if you want to answer all of the questions or pick the ones you feel beneficial for your group. I have a very general Leader Guide that you can request.

Materials Needed for this study:

- Your own workbook
- Pens/Pencils
- Three Ring Binder
- Bible: The NASB translation or translation of your choice.

Please note, the NASB translation was used to write this study. If you use a different translation be aware, the wording may be a little different.

- Strong's Exhaustive Concordance and or Vine's Word Study.

You can also find good Word Study sites on the internet. blueletterbible.org is a great site.

A note about commentaries: Commentaries are good resources. However, it is not recommended that you use one during your study. Remember a commentary is man's interpretation of what the text is teaching. Learn on your own before reading what others have learned.

The NASB translation was used in the writing of this study. It was chosen because of its faithfulness to the original text.

James: Lesson 1

Learning to Walk in Genuine Faith

James 1:1-8

Genuine Faith: Knows, Considers, and Asks Without Doubting

This first lesson we will begin by looking at who wrote the book of James and to whom he is writing to.

Next, we will concentrate on our own salvation before we begin to dig deep into this book.

Why will we look at ourselves first before moving into the truths of this book? I am glad you asked!

James is direct with the commands of God. He gives commands one right after another almost without taking a breath. God requires faith and obedience from His beloved.

Are you ready to count the cost of being a disciple of Christ?

Even though James gets straight to the point in this letter, we will see he has a love for his brothers and sisters in Christ.

He refers to them/us often as beloved brethren. Remember these words from 1 John 5:3-4:

“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.” (NASB)

1. Who wrote the book of James according to James 1:1?
2. How does James describe himself according to this same verse?
3. To whom was the book of James written?
4. Before we move into studying the rest of James, I believe we need to set up the foundation on which to study out the rest of the book. James refers to himself as a bondservant of God and of Christ Jesus. Look up the definition of bondservant in your word study tools and record its meaning.

Servant/Bond-servant: Strong's reference #1401—

5. Is the attitude of your heart the same as James? Look up the following scripture verses and record how these men of God are described.

Moses: Deuteronomy 34:5, Psalm 105:26—

Joshua: Joshua 24:29—

David: 2 Samuel 3:18, Psalm 78:70—

Paul: Romans 1:1, Philippians 1:1, Titus 1:1—

Jude: Jude 1:1—

Prophets: Amos 3:7, Jeremiah 7:25—

6. Look at the following verses that give us an idea of what a Christian is.

Acts 2:18—

Ephesians 6:6—

Colossians 4:2—

2 Timothy 2:24—

7. Question number 6 is only a few verses that touch on the idea of the servanthood of a Christian. The book of James is paragraph after paragraph, verse after verse, of the attitudes and characteristics that accompany the bondservant of Christ Jesus. The majority of us Christians have no problem saying, "I am a Christian!" But, can we say with full conviction, "I am a bondservant of Christ Jesus?" This book will challenge and call us to action! Before we move on, let's read what Luke wrote in Luke 14:25-33. Record what Jesus is saying concerning us being His followers.

Very sobering convicting words! Are you ready to move into the study of this book? Have you counted the cost of following hard after Christ?

8. Before we dissect James 1:2-4, I want us to pull out two words that James is drawing our attention to. With these two words he sums up the walk of a believer. God's word in James also squashes the false doctrine that runs rampant in our churches today. We will not have our best lives today. Everything will not be roses and rainbows! Read James 1:2 and record what the believer will encounter.

9. James gives three commands to set us on the right track as we encounter the various trials that come upon us. Read James 1:2-4 and record these commands.

1.

2.

3.

10. Boy, James hits the floor running, doesn't he? Bam, we're hit with the fact we are going to encounter various, many-colored trials. Good thing we have already considered and know what is going on in our Christian walk and can meet it with great joy! Or have we? Do we consider that God has a purpose and a plan for every trial we encounter? What does it mean to consider something? In this case, what does it mean to "consider it all joy" when we encounter various trials?

How can there be joy in a trial? Read James 1:3 and answer the question, "How can there be joy in my trial?"

11. Read James 1:3 again. Now, why do we consider every trial we encounter a joy?

12. Yay! Now we know that the testing of our faith produces endurance! Or do we? What trial are you encountering right now? Please write it here so you have a written record of it. We will use this one to learn what God is teaching.

13. Do you know that this trial did not catch God by surprise? Do you KNOW that it is doing something? The various trials we encounter are used by God, in this context, to produce endurance or patience. What is the command given in James 1:4?

14. According to James 1:4, why do we let endurance have its perfect result?

15. What does the phrase, "Let endurance" mean in this context? Look up the phrase and record its meaning.

Patience/Let Endurance: Strong's reference #5281—

16. Trials are testing our faith. Trials teach us patience and trust in the sanctifying work of God. Paul had a confidence in God that he expressed in Philippians 1:4. Read the verse and explain what Paul is teaching. How does it apply to what James is teaching in James 1:1-4?

17. Various trials are used by God to accomplish the sanctifying work He began in us. Humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God and letting endurance have its perfect work accomplishes what God designed to do in us. James says in verse 4 that endurance through testing makes us complete, perfect. Take the time to look up these two words, and record what you learn.

Perfect: Strong's reference #5046—

Entire/Complete: Strong's reference #3648—

18. Now that you know what the words mean, explain what James is teaching in verses 1-4.

19. Earlier we learned that letting, or submitting, our lives under that hand of God was recognizing and submitting to a God we know has our greatest interest in mind. He promised blessings and blessings He supplies. However, they do not always come in a way we expect! Some of our greatest blessings come through the trials He sends our way. According to James 1:4, (fill in the blanks) He has a plan for us to be perfect, complete, _____
_____.

20. Now, we have been working through these first four verses and James is teaching us that God's children are going to encounter various trials. We understand why we have trials. The answer is given in James 1:3-4. Go ahead and write it down again. I know this is a repeat, but review and reminders are good for us both.

21. Okay, we've answered the question of why—why do we encounter various trials—but what about the question how? How are you and I going to get through these various trials? James answers that question in verse 5. Read the verse and record what we are to ask for and whom do we ask.

What did you learn about God from this same verse? Once you have written down what this verse teaches you about God, I would like for you to sit and ponder the character of God. Now, do you believe what God says about Himself or are you still doubting?

22. James tells us to ask God for wisdom. But how are we to ask according to James 1:6?

23. How does James 1:6 and 1:8 describe a doubter?

24. Will a doubter receive anything from God? Yes_____ No_____. Let's think about this for a second! When we doubt, according to the context of these verses, who are we doubting? We may think we are doubting the trial or fiery ordeal that came upon us. I know what my mind says, "Is this really doing anything? How could this situation possibly be teaching me anything?" But in reality, what we are really saying, acting, and doing is doubting God. Is that not what this all really boils down to? If He tells us our faith is going to be tested, and then proceeds to tell us why, should we not listen? Sisters, let's not be bad hearers!

Ladies, this lesson came face to face with the truths of God's word!

We have laid the foundation for the rest of this study. We've begun to look at ourselves in God's mirror to know where we are in our faith.

Are we doubters? Are we forgetful doers?

Remember, God instructs us to ask. End this lesson on your knees asking God to show you how to live this life of genuine faith!

Bless you, my dear sisters!

James: Lesson 2

Learning to Walk in Genuine Faith

James 1:9-19

Genuine Faith: Believes, Trusts, and Humbly Receives the Word Implanted

How are we going to respond to temptation? Who will we blame for our temptations?

These and many other questions will be addressed as we continue working through this book, learning to walk in genuine faith.

Remember, every good thing given and every perfect gift comes from God.

"For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed."
Malachi 3:6 (NASB)

1. Read James 1:9-11. We are going to be comparing two men, one rich in material possessions and the other poor, lacking in material wealth and status. Both of these men will be tempted in various ways. Let's begin by looking at the poor man. According to verse 9, what do we learn about this man? What is the instruction given to him?

10. Neither the rich man nor the poor man should pursue worldly riches. Read James 1:27. Fill in the blanks; Keep oneself _____
_____.

11. We have already learned that we will be tested and tried by the refiner's fire. Let's joy in the trials because we know something great is coming. Read James 1:12. What glorious news does this verse give to the brother who perseveres under trial?

12. According to James 1:12, who does the promising and who will approve and give the crown of life. _____. Whom should we please, man or God? _____. The apostle Paul is a great biblical example of one who lived to please God and not man when it came to his walk of faith. Read Galatians 1:1-17. Notice the difference in Paul's life before and after his conversion. Also read the following scripture references and record what they teach about pleasing God.

1 Thessalonians 2:3-6—

Acts 5:29—

Ephesians 6:5-9—

Colossians 3:22—

13. What does it mean to persevere under a trial? Let's begin by looking up the meaning of the word endureth/persevere.

Endureth/Persevere: Strong's reference #5278—

14. What do trials prove?

15. There is one man that immediately comes to mind when I think of one who endured many trials. I know you thought of him too, Job. I am not going to ask you to read the entire account of Job, however, if you want to that would be great. I am going to give just a few verses to read so you will have an idea of the attitude we should possess when we encounter various trials.

Job 1:1—

Job 1:21—

Job 13:15—

16. Ok, we've been tried and tested and we have stood up under the testing. But there is one more thing we need to observe from this verse before moving on. According to James 1:12, to whom does the Lord promise eternal life?

A worldly man can stand up under his trials. But he does so in his own strength, never giving any thought or praise to God. His end will be condemnation and eternal death.

However, a Christian man or woman that stands up under their trials does so with a different mindset. They have a love for God and know their strength is fueled by the power of God.

Can a believer act like an unbeliever in their trials and stand up under them in their own strength? So how will we know whether we are standing in the strength of God or our own? How do we know we love Him?

James states that God promises eternal life to those who love Him.

17. Read the following scripture references and record what they teach about those who love God.

John 14:15—

John 14:23—

1 John 5:1-3—

17. You and I will see, as we study through the book of James, a series of tests to show if we truly love God. Or they will show us how little we love Him. Remember in Lesson 1 we talked about counting the cost of following Christ? The testing of our faith is in the trials we face and how obedient we are to God and His word and our attitude about the trials. Read James 1:13. Record what this verse teaches about God.

18. So if God is not the one tempting, where is it coming from? Read the following scripture references and record who the tempter really is.

Matthew 4:1—

1 Thessalonians 3:5—

Revelation 12:9—

19. Now before we head in a direction that takes us to a false conclusion, let's sit and talk a second. We learned from the passages in question 19 that we indeed have a tempter. He is used by God to tempt. However, can you and I blame Satan when we are tempted and fall into sin?

20. What does James 1:14-15 teach? When temptation comes, who is to blame when sin is birthed?

21. Let's look at verses 14-15 again. This time I would like for you to record in order the sequence of events that take place when you and I are tempted.

22. I believe we need an example of temptation and its ultimate end (unless God grants repentance). Read Genesis 3:1-24 with Genesis 2:15-17. While you read through these passages, keep James 1:14-15 in mind. Mentally (or you may record it) notice the sequence of events that lead to death.

23. We know from the Genesis account that Adam and Eve's temptation led to physical, spiritual, and eternal death. For the one who truly believes, Christ has taken away his spiritual and eternal death. However, unless the Lord returns first, man will die a physical death. That is a consequence of the fall. So, we can say that the product of sin is _____.

24. In the first 15 verses of James, we have learned about temptations and trials. For review, and to make sure we have an understanding of what James is teaching, explain the difference between temptations and trials. Who brings each and what are their intended results?

25. Now let's deal with our temptations. How do the Scriptures teach us to deal with temptation? Read the following scripture references and record how they teach us to handle temptation.

Matthew 6:13— (FYI, this passage does not contradict what James just taught. So do not go there☺)

Matthew 26:41—

1 Timothy 6:11-12—

2 Timothy 2:22—

James 1:19-21—

26. Now read these two encouraging passages and record what they teach about Christ.

Hebrews 2:18—

Hebrews 4:15-16—

27. Read James 1:16-18. What warning of encouragement does James give the beloved brethren in verse 16?

28. Do not be deceived about what? I believe this verse can be looked at in two different ways. 1) We can look at the trials which come our way as bad, believing God sends bad things our way or, 2) We can look at temptations as coming from God. We have already walked through that and should know it not to be true. But just in case we are doubting, record everything you learn about God from James 1:17 and 18.

29. James tells us that God is the Father of Lights. Read Genesis 1:3-5 with Genesis 1:14-19 to help understand what James is saying.

30. To ease what doubt may still be lingering in the mind, look up the following characteristics of God and record their meaning. I hope and pray this puts doubt to rest.

Variableness/Variation: Strong's reference #3883—

Shadow: Strong's reference #644—

Shifting/of Turning: Strong's reference #5157—

31. Are you finished praising God for His never changing character? Read the following scripture references that teach more of the character of God. Record any insight you are given.

1 Timothy 6:15-16—

1 John 1:5—

Malachi 3:6—

32. James 1:18 teaches, “In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth,” Whose will is in play here? What is God doing with His free will according to this verse?

33. What does His will accomplish according to verse 18?

34. What does God use according to this verse as the means by which He brings forth or regenerates man? Right now, I am only looking for what this verse “*literally*” says. We will dig deeper into this in the questions following. There is more than meets the eye in the process of regeneration.

35. Now let’s look at some words to help us further understand what is being taught in James 1:18. Look up and record the meaning of the following words.

Will: Strong's reference #1014—

Begat/Brought Forth: Strong's reference #616—

Also look up:

Regeneration: Strong's reference #3824—

36. Remember I said we would dig deeper into verse 18 to take a closer at regeneration? God brought us forth by the word of truth, the Gospel, but there is an acting agent behind regeneration. Look up the following scripture references and record what they teach about about the acting agent in our new birth.

Titus 3:5—

John 3:5-6—

37. Look up the following scripture references and record what they teach about the word of truth.

John 17:17—

Colossians 1:5—

Romans 1:16—

1 Thessalonians 2:13—

38. Now, let's put together the verses we read in question 37 with the ones we read in question 38. Explain what James is teaching in James 1:18 that we have studied so far.

39. It is God's free will, effectual calling, and grace, which regenerates and saves man. Look up the following scripture references and record what they teach concerning man's salvation. Take special note of the first cause of man's salvation.

Ezekiel 36:25-27—

John 1:3—

John 15:16—

Ephesians 2:5-6—

Ephesians 5:26—

1 Peter 1:3—

James 1:18—

40. Now let's finish looking at James 1:18. We learned in the first part of the verse God regenerated, brought us from death to life, by His Holy Spirit through the word of truth, the gospel. We are also told why He desired to do this. In the NASB translation the words, *so that*, are used to alert the reader to a conclusion in the verse or phrase. *So that* also answers the question *why?* Why did or this going to happen? What I want us to do is fill in the blanks: So that we would be

_____.

41. I am curious and I am sure you are as well. What are “first fruits” and why are the beloved brethren referred to as first fruits? Leviticus 23:9-14 gives a description of first fruits. Let’s begin by reading the passage and recording what you learn.

42. If we understand this correctly, you and I, true born again believers, belong to _____ . _____ brought us forth and set us apart unto Himself as holy and consecrated.

43. If we belong to God, how then shall we live? The whole book of James is going to take us step by step through its many words to answer that question. But, before we walk through the rest of James, we are going to look at James 1:19 in light of James 1:18. This short stay in verse 19 will set us up to study through the rest of James. According to verse 18, the Christian was called and born again by the will and working of God. We belong to Him. If we truly understand what God through Christ has done for us, we should live a grateful, thankful, obedient life for Him! Ok, read James 1:19 and record the instruction given to the brethren.

44. Verse 19 looks back up to verse 18 and looks down into verse 21. What are we not to become angry at according to James 1:18?

45. The word of God is an imperishable seed implanted that saves us and continues to guide and direct us while we live here on this earth. Why should we not

become angry with God's Word? Have you ever been angry at it? This is your lesson: if you feel led, write down scripture references that have made you angry. Take them to God and ask Him to change your heart toward Him. After all, the words of Scripture are His words.

We will dig further into James 1:19-21 in our next lesson.

I hope and pray that by looking at these verses for a short time it has helped you understand the importance of receiving the word of God with humility.

It will be our anchor for the rest of our study!

James: Lesson 3

Learning to Walk in Genuine Faith

James 1:19-27

Genuine Faith: Is Quick to Hear, Slow to Speak, Slow to Anger, Doer of Righteousness

How are we going to respond to the word of God?

Will we receive it with humility or will we become angry with God?

Our direct response to God's word proves if we are only hearers and not doers!

There is a call to being a continual doer, a worker of faith!

"But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves."
James 1:22 (NASB)

1. Read James 1:19-21. This may be a little review from lesson 2 but review is good! I love what Peter says in 2 Peter 1:12, *"Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you."* (NASB) We know that Peter is referring to the gospel of Jesus Christ, but I believe Paul and James would agree

that it is good to be reminded of many things written in the word of God. Especially the instruction given in James 1:19. Record, in order below, what James is teaching in verse 19.

a. This you know, be _____ to
_____.

b. This you know, be _____ to
_____.

c. This you know, be _____ to
_____.

2. Sisters, we must be ready; we need to pay special attention to what is written for us and in us. The first thing James says to us is be quick to hear. Quick to hear what?

3. If we are instructed to be quick to hear then it would stand to reason that we should be slow to speak against the word of God. Let's look at what Scripture has to teach us concerning our speech. Read the following Scripture references and record what they teach concerning our words.

Proverbs 10:19—

Proverbs 14:29—

Psalm 119:29—

Psalm 119:105—

Luke 11:28—

Matthew 4:4—

Matthew 7:24—

2 Timothy 3:16-17—

Romans 15:4—

8. Now that you have walked through the verses above and read how good the word of God is for us, why do we find ourselves becoming angry with it?

9. James 1:20 says the anger of man does not achieve the _____ of God.

10. Before we dig deeper into this verse, look up the word *righteousness* and record its meaning as used in the context of James 1:20.

Righteousness: Strong's Reference #1343—

11. Also look up the word *worketh* (the NASB uses *achieve*) and record the meanings.

Worketh: Strong's reference #2716 & #2038—

12. What is anger? Look up *anger* and record what it means.

Anger: Strong's Reference #3709—

13. According to the following scripture references, what is the believer to seek and strive after?

Zephaniah 2:3—

Matthew 5:6—

Matthew 6:33—

Romans 14:17—

14. Think about times you have been angry, especially angry at the word of God. What was that anger achieving? Does unrighteous anger achieve anything good?

15. Is there a time to be angry? There is a righteous anger. God's anger at unrighteousness and sin is righteous. Read Ephesians 4:26-27. Record what Paul teaches in these verses about anger.

16. List some situations in which it is right to be angry.

17. After writing out your list, you may want to make sure your reasons are biblical reasons to be angry. Sometimes we can be angry and it not be a righteous anger. This is a work that must be done through the reading and study of God's word and prayer.

18. Does anger at the word of God produce the righteousness God desires for His children?

19. Read James 1:21.

a. What are we to put aside according to this verse?

b. What are we to receive according to this verse?

c. How are we to receive the word according to this verse?

20. James says the word is implanted in the believer. What is he teaching? Look up the word *implanted* and record what you learn from the definition.

Engrafted/Implanted: Strong's reference #1721—

21. James instructs us to humbly receive the word implanted. We need to understand that the planting of the word took place at regeneration. (James 1:18) Look up the scripture references below. After reading the verses and learning the definition of implanted, explain what James is teaching.

Romans 6:5-7—

Ephesians 1:13—

1 Peter 1:22—

22. Read James 1:22-25. What instruction is given to the believer in verse 22?

23. Look up these verses that will help us understand what James is teaching about being doers of the word.

Matthew 3:8—

Matthew 7:24-27—

Romans 2:13—

James 2:14-20—

24. What does James 1:22 say about the hearer of the word?

25. How does James describe the deluded/self-deceived man in James 1:23-24?

26. This man puts no effort into becoming a righteous man. What does James 1:25 say about the doer? What does he do?

27. What is the outcome for the diligent doer of the word according to verse 25?

28. How does James describe the law in James 1:25?

29. James teaches that the law liberates or makes us free. The flesh cannot understand what the Word teaches about true freedom. Look at how the Pharisees responded to Jesus when He explained what a true disciple is. Read John 8:31-33. I do believe they were angry at Jesus, the Word of God!

30. Now look up the following scripture references and record what they teach concerning freedom.

John 8:31-36—

Romans 8:1-2—

Galatians 2:4—

31. Read James 1:26-27. Record what these verses teach about true religion and false religion.

32. How can we usually recognize a foolish man? Look back at question 4 to help you answer this one. What does James 1:26 say about the man who does not bridle his tongue? What does one's tongue or speech have to do with religion?

33. What is true religion according to James 1:27?

34. The man (or woman) who is truly religious keeps himself unstained by the world. What does James 4:4 say about the man or woman who is friends with the world?

35. We will discuss more of James 4:4 later in our study but for now what are some ways we keep ourselves unstained/undefiled by the world?

This has been a very study! We are only through chapter 1!

If you have found yourself convicted through the study of James, praise God for it!

But do not walk away being a forgetful hearer. Repent, believe God's word is true and freeing, and walk forward in His truth.

He says those who are doers of His word will be blessed in what he does!

James: Lesson 4

Learning to Walk in Genuine Faith

James 2:1-13

*Genuine Faith: Shows No Partiality, Fulfills the Law through Love,
Gives Mercy*

How has the love of God affected our love for others?

Will we walk in humility and mercy or judgment?

“Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments; For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.”

1 John 5:1-3 (NASB)

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

1 John 4:11 (NASB)

1. What is the instruction or command given to the believer in James 2:1?

6. Is Christ Jesus or our heavenly Father a respecter of persons? Look at what the following scripture references teach about this subject.

Deuteronomy 10:17—

Romans 2:11—

Ephesians 6:9—

7. Sisters, our attitudes must line up with the word of God. Bad attitudes direct our works as believers. We will see this throughout our study of James. Read James 2:2-4. Record the scenario that James presents.
8. James says if we show partiality, in this case between the rich and poor, we have become judges. Who is the only rightful judge of mankind? Read 1 Samuel 16:7. Compare man's judgment with that of God's.

9. What question does James ask in James 2:5? Who does God choose and what is their reward?

10. When the world chooses someone for honor, and seats them in a good place, who more likely would they choose, the poor man or the rich man? Why? What is the motive behind the choice? Remember we are talking about the *world*!

11. How does James describe motives in James 2:4?

12. Why are these motives evil?

13. Read Job 34:19 and 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. Record what you learn about God and His choosing from these verses.

14. Put an x next to the answer that best fits the question. Who is in need of salvation the rich _____ or the poor _____?

15. I know you knew the answer to question 14. I asked the question the way I did to stop us and make us think. Every man or woman rich or poor is in great need of salvation. How did God meet that need according to John 3:16?

16. James is going to show us how foolish it is to honor the rich above the poor. How does he describe the rich in James 2:6-7?

17. What is the fulfillment of God's law according to James 2:8?

18. How does James describe the law in James 2:8? Why does he describe it this way?

19. If you are fulfilling the royal law, the law that surpasses all others, is there any room for showing partiality? According to James 2:9, what is one doing that shows partiality?

20. Showing partiality is a sin, plain and simple. If we sin, what does the law do according to this same verse?

21. At this point the law of God is telling us we are committing sin. How should the believer respond to the law? Reread James 1:19 before you answer!

22. One may say, "Well, I have only committed one sin. How bad can that be?" Read James 2:10-11. How does James address this thought in verse 10?

23. What example does James use to further explain this truth? Who established this truth?

24. In the context of James 1-8, who is being sinned against?

25. What does Matthew 7:12 teach?

26. What one word in James 2:8 unifies the point James is teaching?

27. What is the command given in James 2:12?

28. The law in this verse is described as the, "Law of Liberty." What has the Law of liberty freed the believer from? Look at the following scripture references and record what each teaches about the liberating work of God through Jesus Christ. Record any others you may find.

Romans 6:1-7—

Romans 8:1-2—

Romans 6:22-23—

29. In light of what Jesus has freed us from, what should be the attitude of our hearts toward God and our neighbor?

30. Write out James 2:13.

31. Read the following scripture references and explain how they relate to James 2:13.

2 Samuel 22:26-27—

Psalm 18:25-26—

Matthew 5:7—

32. Mercy triumphs over judgment. Read the account of Jesus and the woman caught in adultery recorded in John 8:1-11. Explain what is meant by mercy triumphs over judgment.

33. Justice demands what is due. Mercy pleads their case. Christ's mercy triumphed over due judgment. Explain what Christ has done for you. Should our hearts not be full of mercy and in turn good works.

Behind the scenes of the book of James is love.

First God loved us and through His love we are to love others as ourselves.

When love is applied and lived out it fulfills the law of God.

James: Lesson 5

Learning to Walk in Genuine Faith

James 2:14-26

Genuine Faith: Rests in Christ's Work Alone for Salvation, Works in Obedience

How can you say you are a believer and yet you do not produce fruit in keeping with repentance? Are you willing to recognize faith without works is useless?

Are you willing to recognize the gift of faith is through the work of Christ alone?

God is not the author of confusion! This lesson must be bathed in prayer. You must rely on the Holy Spirit of God to guide you into all truth.

1. Can faith without works save you? Do works save you? These are two very different questions with two very different answers. You and I must pay close attention to what James is teaching in this section of Scripture. Nowhere in Scripture does it teach that we are saved by works. Before we walk through this passage, I want to ask a few questions. I believe they will serve to help us as we continue our study.

- Does the Bible contradict itself?
- Does the Bible seem to contradict itself?
- How do you and I know that there are no contradictions?
- What do we base our understanding on?

2. The bases for our understanding of Scripture is that it never contradicts itself, is without error, is sufficient for life and godliness, and is based solely on the character of God. Read the following scripture references, memorize them, and write them on your hearts. These truths will hold you firm as you navigate through the word of God. Record what they teach you about the character of God.

Numbers 23:19—

Psalm 12:6—

Psalm 119:89—

Proverbs 30:5—

Matthew 24:35—

Titus 1:2—

Hebrews 6:18—

3. What two questions does James ask the brethren in James 2:14?

6. Read through James 2:14-26 and record how many times James says,

Faith without works is dead—

Faith without works is useless—

I am using the NASB translation of the Bible to study the book of James and to write these lessons. As I was reading and studying through verses 14-26, I noticed something really interesting.

(Now, before I go any further, let me preface what I am going to say with this: I do not believe in coding of Scripture and all that mumbo jumbo[©] If you do not know what I am talking about when I say, “Coding of Scripture” good for you, there is no need to know. I do not know a whole lot, except it is not of God.)

Enough said! Ok! In the NASB translation I found the words *faith* and *works* recorded eleven times each. Now, you go through whatever translation you are using and see how many times you can find each word.

a. **Faith—**

b. **Works—**

7. I found it very interesting that Scripture connects faith and works. James is addressing the foolish ones who believe they can say they have faith but have no works to prove it. Faith is a living active faith and gives evidence of a heart changed by God's Holy Spirit. Read the following scripture references and record what they teach about an active working faith.

Matthew 3:8—

Matthew 5:16—

Matthew 7:17-19—

8. There is also a flipside to this. We already know and are learning that faith is accompanied by works. Ephesians 2:10 teaches, "*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*" (NASB) Can works without faith save you? Read Matthew 7:21-23. Record what it is teaching.

9. We cannot be all talk without works. Nor can we be all works and no faith. Now sisters, do you see how important it is to study and know the Scriptures? The Scriptures are clear; works do not save you. But faith does have works. James 2:15-25! Before we move on, look at what Paul says about works and faith. Read Galatians 2:16. Record what Paul teaches about faith and works.

10. I would like for you and I to dwell in James 2:21-26 for a little while. You may still have questions about how Paul uses justification in Romans 3:27-28, and how James uses the same word in this passage. First, look up the word justified in your word study tool and record its Greek meaning.

Justified: Strong's reference #1344—

The meaning of the word *justified* can be applied in two different ways depending on the context of the verses in which it is used.

Justified: To show to be right or righteous.

Justified: To cause someone to be in a proper or right relation with someone else.

11. Read Romans 3:20-26. Which definition of justified is used in the Romans passage? Who is the One who *justifies* according to this same passage?

12. Read Romans 3:27-30. Which definition of justified is Paul using in these verses? Who is the *Justifier* according to these verses?

13. Read Matthew 11:19. Which definition of justified is Matthew using in this passage?

14. Read Luke 7:35. Which definition of justified is Luke using in this passage?

15. Re-read James 2:18-26. Which definition of justified is James using in this passage?

Here is a definition of *justified* I found @precept.org. I hope it helps you to understand more fully the work God does for us.

“Justified: as used by Paul in Romans (where Romans 14 of 39 NT uses are found) *dikaioo* had primarily a forensic (legal) use meaning that one is declared righteous, acquitted. It is important to understand that *dikaioo* is not a process but an act. Justification is what God does when a sinner repents and believes on Christ. God does not "make" a sinner righteous ("make" implies an ongoing process) but declares them righteous at that moment. Justification is a once-for-all event that never needs to be repeated, is never altered and is never revoked nor rescinded. Justification is a change in a man's relation or standing before God which has to do with relations that have been disturbed by sin, and these relations are personal. It is a change from guilt and condemnation to acquittal and acceptance. As already stated justification in the sense just described is by faith alone in Christ alone apart from works.”

16. Reading Romans 8:29-31 will help in understanding this truth about justification.

Wow!! What a journey through justification!

I know I now understand better what the Scriptures teach about justification.

I hope and pray you do as well!

Sisters, if you still struggle, pray, and pray some more.

Study and study some more!

But rest assured all the work necessary for salvation Christ did through His birth, life, crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection.

Our part is to walk in obedience!

James: Lesson 6

Learning to Walk in Genuine Faith

James 3:1-12

Genuine Faith: Bridles the Tongue, Watches Diligently Over His Motives

No one can tame the tongue! How discouraging to read those words.

However, we do have One who is greater than our tongue! He has given us the power of the Holy Spirit and His word that teaches and guides us into all truth.

There is hope! You and I are to be about the business of bridling the tongue!

1. Read James 3:1. James gives a warning in verse 1.
 - a. What is the warning he gives?

 - b. What is the reason given for the warning?

- c. Summarize what you read in James 3:1 why anyone should pray hard when considering becoming a teacher of God's word. Give scripture references for your answer.

2. Read Romans 12:6-7 and Ephesians 4:11-13. Record all you learn from these verses about a teacher. Especially note why God gives teachers.

3. The warning in James 3:1 is directed at those who have a desire to teach. This warning is put here as a speed bump, if you will, to slow down and even stop many from pursuing a teaching position. According to verse 1, a teacher of God's word will incur a stricter judgment. However, everyone will incur judgment for his words. Read Matthew 12:34-37 and record what Christ says about the careless words we speak.

4. There can be an arrogant attitude, and wrong reasons attached to the idea of wanting to teach. Read Acts 17:21 and record what it says.

5. Read the following scripture references and record some dangerous reasons for wanting to teach.

Matthew 23:5-7—

1 Timothy 1:3-7—

Titus 1:11—

6. According to 1 Timothy 1:5, what is the sincere reason for giving instruction?

7. Read James 3:2. What does James say about all believers?

James 3:9-10—

11. What two examples does James use to help us understand how powerful the small tongue is? Read James 3:3-4 and record what you learn.

12. Tongue appears 110 times in 109 verses in the Bible. We will only look at a few places. However, if you are up to the challenge, look them all up and record what the Scriptures teach about the tongue. Here are a few I picked out. Read through them and record what each teaches about the tongue. (Note the results of a negative tongue and the positives in the verses that apply.)

Psalm 12:4—

Psalm 15:1-3—

Psalm 34:11-14—

Psalm 39:3—

Psalm 52:1-4—

Proverbs 10:20—

Proverbs 10:31-32—

Proverbs 12:18—

13. Read Proverbs 6:16-19 and record the things which the Lord hates and are an abomination to Him.

14. We have learned a lot about what the Scriptures teach concerning the tongue. Now read James 3:11-12 with Matthew 7:16-20. Explain what these verses are teaching.

15. Our small tongue directs our entire bodies, but what is the driving force behind our tongue? Read Jeremiah 17:9 with Matthew 12:34 and record what they teach.

16. Read the following scripture references and record how we are instructed to use our words.

Ephesians 4:29—

Ephesians 5:4—

Colossians 3:5-11—

17. The apostle Peter instructs us to be holy as God is holy. James teaches that no one can tame the tongue. However, we should be making every effort to tame our tongue. In order to accomplish this, we are to be putting off the old and putting on the new. Read 1 Peter 1:14-16 and James 4:6-10. Record what is being taught in these verses and the actions we are instructed to take.

18. What a lot to learn and take in concerning our hearts and tongue. There is not one of us who can say we have this licked. I am sure each of us have been reminded of things we said that we should not have said. Once our words are spoken, they can never be taken back. Yes, we can ask for forgiveness, but there are lingering effects left behind by our words. Take this time to read the following scripture references. Record what they are teaching and turn them into prayer.

Romans 12:1-3—

Psalm 51:10-13—

Psalm 141:1-4—

The entire course of our lives is set by our tongue.
I cannot wait for the day my tongue is completely tamed.
How about you?

James: Lesson 7

Learning to Walk in Genuine Faith

James 3:13—4:1-10

Genuine Faith: Submits to God, Humbles Himself, Resists the Devil

James sure asks a lot of questions doesn't he?

I am thankful he does! How about you?

These questions should stop us in our tracks and cause us to check our hearts!

Remember Jeremiah teaches that our hearts are deceitfully wicked. They lie to us and we are gullible enough to listen to them!

I pray this walk through James teaches us to listen and submit ourselves under the mighty hand of God!

1. James asks a question in chapter 3 verse 13. What question does he ask?

2. How many of us would be quick to throw our hands up in the air when asked that question? Well, James is asking us that question. He is asking _____ (fill in your own name), are you wise and understanding?

3. Let's do a wisdom check. Re-read James 3:13. How does wisdom express itself according to this verse?

4. Some of us may have put our hands down after we read James 3:13 and answered question three. However, I am sure there are many who skipped right over these words and still have their hands raised high. There are degrees of wisdom among us. We are all still in the sanctification process. Praise God! Now let's read James 3:14. What could the heart be harboring according to this verse?

5. If you and I are harboring any bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in our hearts and we do not confess it before God, we are described as arrogant! According to James 3:14, what does arrogance do?

6. What is arrogance lying against? Look up the following scripture references and record what they teach about God knowing the heart.

Psalm 7:9—

Psalm 44:21—

Proverbs 21:2—

Matthew 9:4—

7. Worldly wisdom hides, or so it thinks. How does James 3:15 describe selfish ambition, bitter jealousy, arrogance, and lying in this verse?

8. Before we move from here, I would like for you to look up the definition of earthly, natural, and demonic, and record what each means.

Earthly: Strong's Reference #1919—

Sensual/Natural: Strong's reference #5591—
{Notice we get our word *psyche* from this definition.} After looking up this definition, look up the scripture references recorded for you. I think they will help us understand we are born with this kind of wisdom.

Verses to go along with the definition of Sensual/Natural:

1 Corinthians 2:14—

1 Corinthians 15:44-46—

11. Read James 3:17. Now James is going to contrast earthly wisdom with godly wisdom. How does he describe godly wisdom in this verse?

12. Wow! That is a breath of fresh air! From where does godly wisdom come?

_____.

13. Look up the following scripture references which speak about the wisdom of God. Be sure and write them out.

Job 12:13—

Isaiah 40:28—

Romans 11:33—

14. The Bible teaches the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. So if we have little fear and awe of God we are also lacking in wisdom. Look up the following scripture references and record what each teaches about wisdom and understanding.

Job 28:28—

Proverbs 1:7—

Proverbs 9:10—

Proverbs 15:33—

15. Now re-read James 3:13 with Psalm 107:43. Record what you are being taught from these verses.

Read James 4:1-10. God knows our nature much better than we do. We are so used to it, most of the time, we do not give it a second thought. However, that is not the way, or should not be the way, of the child of God. We are not to be forgetful hearers.

We are called to look intently at the law of God and be effectual doers. Apparently, there are sinful actions taking place in the household of God. I have been the brunt of this kind of sinful action and I know some of you have been as well.

Let's make sure we are not harboring bitter jealousy or selfish ambitions in our hearts. For what James will be discussing could be you and me.

16. What question does James ask in James 4:1?

17. How does James answer that question in the same verse?

18. List the pleasures that wage war in our members according to James 4:2. Record the outcome of letting these pleasures give birth.

19. Murder, how extreme! However, it is the outcome of many. Lest we think we can skip this one look at 1 John 3:15 teaches.

20. Quarrels and conflicts among brothers and sisters in Christ certainly do not show the love of God which has been poured out into our hearts, does it? Does God supply our fleshly desires? Does He supply our needs? Read James 4:2-3 and record what it teaches about our motives in prayer.

21. Read James 4:4. What does the word of God call those who are friends of the world and those who wish to be friends with the world?

22. What is an adulteress? Why does James use this word in this context? Look up the word in your word study tools and record its meaning.

Adulteresses: Strong's reference #3428—

23. The Bible refers to the believer as the Bride of Christ. Just like in a worldly marriage, if you cheat on your spouse, even by lusting after another, you are an adulteress. Spiritually speaking, if we unite ourselves with the world, by acting like it, or even thinking like it, we become adulteresses. Yikes! As I wrote these words I became very convicted! Looking at, even thinking about, worldly things is adultery toward God! I have pulled a few verses that speak about adultery and the Bride of Christ. I am going to put these verses side by side so as you look at them and get a better picture of what is being taught.

Bride of Christ

Adulteresses

2 Corinthians 11:2

Jeremiah 3:20

Ephesians 5:24

Isaiah 1:21

Revelation 21:9

Isaiah 57:8

Revelation 19:7

Ezekiel 16:3

24. What do we learn about God from James 4:5-6?

25. Praise God for His greater grace! Read James 4:7-10. Beside each key word listed below, record James' instructions.

Submit:

Resist:

Draw nigh/near:

Cleanse:

Purify:

Be afflicted/miserable:

Let your:

Humble:

All of these action steps can be tied up into one word, humility. You and I must admit there are things in our hearts that do not honor and glorify God.

Humility can be defined as bowing the knee. Let's bow the knee today in humility, admitting our sins before God.

26. Read 1 John 1:8-10 with 1 John 2:1. Explain what these verses are teaching.

27. Read the later part of James 4:7. What are we to do according to this verse?

28. How do we resist the devil? Re-read James 4:7-10 for your answer!

I am loving studying God's Word with you!

Praying for you as we continue our study together!

James: Lesson 8

Learning to Walk in Genuine Faith

James 4:11-17

Genuine Faith: Knows Pride is the Sickness, and Humility the Cure

In Lesson 7, we looked at submitting, drawing near to God, cleansing our hands, weeping, mourning . . . which are all acts of humility.

In this lesson, we are going to continue looking at humility. Like the title of this lesson shows, we all have a sickness that needs healing. That sickness is pride. None of us are immune and sometimes, we do not even realize we are prideful.

1. Read James 4:11-17.

There is a list of, “Do nots” in these verses and a few I would like to pull out in chapter 5. The word of God is quit clear in its commands. If we are doing the things which God speaks against, we are not being doers of the word but merely hearers who delude themselves. Below is a list of “Do nots” I found reading through these verses. I am going to list the verse for you and I want you to complete the sentence.

James 4:11—Do not:

James 4:13—Do not say:

James 4:16—Do not boast:

James 5:9—Do not complain:

James 5:12—Do not swear:

2. Now let's go back and work through these separately. According to James 4:11, if you and I speak against a brother what are we really doing?

3. Before we look at how we are judging the law let's look at the meaning of the word so we can see clearly what it means to speak against a brother. The King James version of the Bible uses the words, "speak evil of." That puts in a better light does it not?

Speaketh evil/Speak evil of: Strong's reference #2635—

The Greek word *kateleo* is a derivative of two other Greek words. I believe we will get a better understanding of what James is teaching if we look up these words as well. It will also be helpful if you record the synonyms you find.

Katelia:

Evil Speakings/Backbitings/Slander: Strong's reference #2636—

Katalalos:

Backbiters/Slanderers: Strong's reference #2637—

4. Not pretty words are they? This reminds me of what James taught in James 3:3-12. If we are speaking evil of our brothers and sisters in Christ or our neighbors, our tongue is not tamed. We are short-sighted and have forgotten the purifications from our former sins. Look at what Peter says in 1 Peter 1:22-23 with 1 Peter 2:1-3. Record your insight.

5. Who are you to judge your neighbor? How does James 4:12 answer that question?

6. If we judge the intent, the motives, the lifestyle of our brothers and sister, what are we actually doing according to James 4:11? Explain in your own words what this verse is teaching.

7. Read 1 John 4:7-21 with 1 John 5:1-3. What one word sums up the teaching in these verses?

8. Let's look closer at our brothers and sisters in Christ. Read the following scripture references and record what we learn about the body of Christ and how we should respond to each other.

Romans 12:3-5—

1 Corinthians 12:18-20—

Philippians 2:1-11—

9. Read 1 Corinthians 13. Record how this chapter echos the words of James in chapter 4:11.

10. What is the warning to the believer in James 4:13?

11. How does James 4:14 describe you and I?

12. What is our proper heart response to our planning according to James 4:15?

13. Do you find yourself discontent when things do not go the way you planned? Is it wrong to plan? Look at what Proverbs 6:6-8 teaches about planning. Record what it teaches.

14. Look at an example of planning recorded for us in Genesis 41:33-37. Record what you learn from these verses.

15. It is not wrong to plan. The Bible calls it wisdom. Whenever we make plans what should be the cry of our heart? Read the following scripture references and record what they have in common and where our contentment should rest.

Acts 18:21—

1 Corinthians 4:19—

1 Corinthians 16:7—

Philippians 2:19-24—

16. When we plan our steps and glory in our own plans what are we boasting in according to James 4:16?

17. Arrogance is the opposite of humility. Boasting in our arrogance is called what according to James 4:16?

18. Have you ever thought of boasting in your own plan making (James 3:13-14) and judging your brother (James 3:11-12) as evil? I have always thought it to be wrong, but when you accompany this with evil, it is more than wrong! If boasting in these few things is evil, I believe that any and all boasting of our own so-called accomplishments is evil as well. According to the Scriptures, who and what are we to boast in? Read the following scripture references and record what you learn about boasting and where it should be placed.

Jeremiah 9:23-24—

Psalm 20:7—

2 Corinthians 10:17—

Galatians 6:14—

Philippians 3:3—

19. Before we move away from boasting I would like to draw our attention to our salvation. Our flesh wants to take credit for and boast in our works when it comes to our own salvation. Read the following passages and while you read through them ask the Lord to really speak to your heart about salvation and where all glory and boasting belong! Record any insights you may have.

Romans 3:1-31—

1 Corinthians 1:17-31—

2 Corinthians 10:12-18—

Ephesians 2:8-9—

20. We will end this lesson by reading James 4:17. What is the message given to us in this verse?

I am so thankful for the time we are spending together in the book of James! This study has come with a lot of learning and much conviction.

Remember as we study we are held responsible for the things the Lord is teaching us!

Sisters, this is not a study that we can just mark off as we do our do to list. It is much more than that. Please, take studying the word of God very serious, because it is!

I am praying for you, please pray for me too!

James: Lesson 9

Learning to Walk in Genuine Faith

James 5:1-12

Genuine Faith: Knows Christ is the Greatest Treasure

Suffering, persecution, oppression, the blessings of the believer. Yes, you read that right!

The Word of God never tells us we will live a tiptoe-through-the-roses kind of life! We are called to suffer just as our Lord and Savior suffered and died.

When our focus is on the suffering, we will produce the fruit of grumbling and complaining. However, if our focus is on Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith, we will offer a sacrifice of praise to Him.

1. Read James 5:1-5. Before we dig into this section of scripture, I have a couple of questions to help us think more biblically as we work through these verses.
 - Is there anything wrong with having wealth and riches?

- Do you know a believer who is rich yet views and uses their wealth differently than the rich described in James 5:1-5?
- Are there any examples in Scripture of Christian men and women who possessed wealth and riches?

James is not addressing the right or wrong of riches in these verses. He is warning and calling out the imposters in the church who live for the world and not for God.

2. What does James say about those who wish to be a friend of the world in James 4:4?

3. Are the rich in the context of James 5:1-5 friends of the world or friends of God?

You and I must be careful with this section of Scripture.

It is easy to want to give grace, and say well there are some who live as carnal Christians. That statement is sometimes true.

Colossians 3:2-11—

Hebrews 13:5—

10. Proverbs 30:7-9 are great verses for us to memorize and turn into prayer to God. Read them, memorize them, pray them! Record the heart behind this prayer.

The believers are being oppressed by the rich and James 5:6 says, “The righteous man does not resist the rich.” (NASB)

This next set of verses are going to encourage and equip the believer to deal with people and suffering.

There is hope dear ones, the day of the Lord is near!

11. Read James 5:7-11. What attitude of the heart is James calling the believer to exhibit in James 5:7-8? Hint, the word is repeated at least three times in these two verses.

12. What example does James use to help with his exhortation to be patient?

13. What is the greatest expectation of the believer according to James 5:8?

14. While we wait “patiently” for the day of the Lord, what are we to do according to James 5:8?

15. We strengthen our hearts by focusing our sure hope on the return of Christ. While we wait for that day, the Scriptures teach that we will encounter various trials and tribulations. Read the following scripture references and record what you and I need to understand, know, and do while we wait.

James 1:2-4—

1 Peter 4:12—

Romans 12:17-21—

2 Peter 2:3-9—

Hebrews 12:1-3—

16. Grumbling and complaining can be a fruit of persecution, trials, and temptations. Especially when we do not have our focus on the right things and in the wrong place. What is James warning against in James 5:9, and what reason does he give for this warning?

17. Who is standing at the door?

Not only does God hear the outcry of those being oppressed, as we learned in James 5:4, the Judge is standing right at the door, not only does He hear but He knows the intent of our hearts.

The grumbling James talks about may not be verbal, it can be a conversation that we carry on within our heart and mind. However, it is not hidden from the One who will return and judge not only the world but the household of God.

Our flesh believes it can hide our true feelings, but you and I know, they are really not hidden! God knows!

We are never given the permission, nor do we ever have the right, to grumble and complain about our brothers and sisters in Christ.

18. Read Philippians 2:1-11. Record what Paul is teaching in these verses and record all that you learn of the example he gives for us to follow.

19. Read Philippians 2:12-16. Record what these verses teach concerning grumbling and record why you and I should never grumble and complain.

20. I am thankful we can learn from the examples given to us in the Scriptures. How about you? Read James 5:10-11. Record the examples James gives us of those who encountered suffering in their day just as you and I encounter suffering in our day.

21. According to James 5:11, those who endure suffering and hardship are counted as _____.

22. We avoid putting *blessed* and *suffering* side by side because in our hearts and minds they do not belong together. But the Scriptures speak differently, don't they? Read 1 Peter 3:13-14 with Matthew 5:10. Record what you learn about suffering and blessing in these passages.

23. What do we learn about God in James 5:11?

Do you really believe He will take care of you?

We can trust that He will provide everything we need for life and for
godliness.

He promised and He who promised is faithful.

James: Lesson 10

Learning to Walk in Genuine Faith

James 5:13-20

Genuine Faith: Lives in Communion with God in the Good and the Bad

James closes this letter teaching us to pray in our hard situations, and praising God in the good situations.

But do not forget, we are also to count it all joy when we encounter various trials.

Prayer and praise are to always be in mouth of His children no matter the circumstances!

1. James uses the word pray, prayer, and prayed, a collection of seven times in James 5:13-18. You and I know when something is repeated that it is important. Prayer is an important part of the life of a believer. Before we begin to walk through this last section of James, let's get back to the basics. What is prayer?

6. If any among the church body is sick, what is he to do according to James 5:14?

7. What is the elder instructed to do according to James 5:14?

8. According to James 5:15, what is the condition in which we should pray? See also James 1:6-8 and James 4:3.

9. The prayer offered in faith will result in what according to James 5:16?

We need to look at what prayer offered in faith means.

Does it mean if I have enough faith and I pray and ask God to heal me, I will be healed of my sickness? Have you or your church family prayed for someone to be healed of sickness and they were healed?

Have you or your church family prayed for someone to be healed of sickness and they were not healed? I have witnessed both cases. I am sure you have as

well. Which brings us back to our original question, “What does prayer offered in faith mean?”

I have a few questions to help you understand this meaning.

10. What is faith? Look up Hebrews 11:1 and record the definition given.

11. In whom do we place our assurance?

12. How do we walk according to 2 Corinthians 5:7?

13. Is God sovereign and in control of all things? Do you believe it? Do you trust Him?

14. When we pray, who are we putting our trust in?

15. After answering the above questions, can you now explain what, “prayer offered in faith” means? Give it a try!

I found this definition to be most helpful. I hope it helps you as well.

“The faith exercised in prayer is faith in the God who sovereignly accomplishes his will. When we pray, our faith recognizes, explicitly or implicitly, the overruling providential purposes of God. We may at times be given insight into that will, enabling us to pray with absolute confidence in God’s plan to answer as we ask. But surely those cases are rare—more rare even than our subjective, emotional desires would lead us to suspect. A prayer for healing, then, must usually be qualified by the recognition that God’s will in the matter is supreme.”

Moo, Douglas J., *The Letter of James, The Pillar New Testament Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2000

16. The later part of James 5:15 seems to allude to the fact that sickness can be a result of sin. But is it always? Read John 9:1-3, and record how Jesus answers the question of the disciples.

17. Is public confession of sin appropriate? Read James 5:16 to answer that question.

18. Do you find it hard to publicly confess your sins? Why?

19. Why do we confess our sins and pray for one another according to James 5:16?

20. Is prayer powerful? What does James say effective prayer can do?

21. James uses Elijah to illustrate the power of prayer. How did he pray according to 5:17?

22. Read James 5:17-18 and record his prayer.

23. What is the situation in James 5:19 and what are believers instructed to do?

24. Read Matthew 18:15-18 and record what these verses teach on exposing sin.

25. How are we to approach our brother and sister when confronting sin according to Galatians 6:1?

26. What is our instruction toward one another according to 1 Peter 4:8?

This study in James has not covered up any sin but has unapologetically exposed it!

In a church age where sin is swept under the rug and admired, you and I must hear what God teaches in His word concerning sin, and expose it for what it is: sin against a holy and righteous God.

The judge is standing at the door and will soon return, not as a lamb, but a lion.

Continue to teach and preach the gospel to yourself. Take what you are learning and take it to the world!

It has been an honor and a privilege to walk through the book of James with you!

Blessings to you my sweet sisters.