

NEW TESTAMENT WRITERS

JAMES

Pray: ask God to open your mind, soul and spirit to His teaching through His Word

Think: the questions are designed to expand your knowledge of God and His Word

Begin: using only your Bible, answer the questions* without other outside sources

**questions are based on New International Version (NIV)*

Lesson 8 – James 1

November 11, 2009

1. a) How does James identify himself?
 - b) To whom is this letter written? What can we guess about the early Christians from James 1:1?

2. a) In James 1:2, what part (mind, body or soul) of his readers does James address in using the word “consider”? Why do you think he addresses this part?
 - b) According to James 1:2–4, why should you “Consider it pure joy...whenever you face trials of many kinds”?
 - c) Prayerfully consider what things (changes, new habits) will help you to address this challenge when trials come. List three.

3. a) James 1:5 discusses wisdom. What is wisdom? If you wish, you may use a dictionary for help.
 - b) From where does wisdom come?

- c) In your own words, what must we do when we ask from God (James 1:6)? Why?
- d) Pray and ask the Lord to reveal areas where you doubt. Do you see the Lord's blessings in these areas? Why or why not? Write your response to the Lord.
4. Do you think James 1:9–11 indicates that wealth is evil? Why is the rich man punished? Read Deuteronomy 8:17–18, 1 Chronicles 29:11–12, and 1 Timothy 6:17–19 for additional insight.
5. a) What is the difference between the words “tempt” and “test”? (Refer to James 1:3, 12–14.) Why is this important? See 1 Chronicles 29:14–17; Proverbs 17:3; Matthew 26:40–41; 1 Corinthians 7:5, and 1 Timothy 6:6–10 for help.
- b) Who or what tempts according to James 1:13–14?
- c) Compare the result of giving in to temptation versus persevering under trial. Cite verses from James 1.
6. Reflect on the trials you have been faced with in the last 10 years. Did you persevere? Did you blame others? On whom did you depend? Use the space below to write down what you gained. Be specific in how and what areas you experienced growth.
7. Describe how you might be/have been deceived when you forgot or didn't know the truth of James 1:16–18. Include in your description the names(s) of the perfect gifts involved.

8. a) Now that our attitudes are maturing, how does James 1:19–27 encourage readers to act? Cite verses.

 - b) Name two areas in which you need God's grace to grow further in your life. Consider asking your group to commit to praying about these areas with you.

 - c) Memorize James 1:19–20.
9. a) Describe the measures you take to "look after orphans and widows in their distress" (James 1:27)?

 - b) Describe the measures you take to keep yourself "from being polluted by the world" in James 1:27?

 - c) Ask the Lord for guidance in how to continue and/or grow in these areas. What did you learn?