

## 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)*

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### Lesson 9 – James 2

November 18, 2009

1. What problem does the author address with his “brothers” in James 2:1?
  
2.
  - a) What does the scripture warn us against becoming in James 2:4?
  
  - b) What type of “judge” is Jesus? Read Isaiah 11:3–4, John 5:30 and John 8:13–18 for insight.
  
  - c) In what areas do you struggle with discriminating against others? (Ask the Lord, spouse, children, honest family members or friends...you may have to be creative when asking humans...)
  
  - d) What specific changes will you pray for that will enable you to better imitate the type of judge Jesus exemplifies?
  
3.
  - a) Read 1 Corinthians 1:26–31. In what ways do you identify with “those who are poor in the eyes of the world” as written in James 2:5?
  
  - b) Describe how you are rich in faith. If you feel truly impoverished in your faith, will you ask your group to uphold you as you pray regarding this?

4. a) According to James 2:9–11, who are lawbreakers?
  - b) What do you think is the law that gives freedom? See Romans 8:1–4
  
5. a) How do your words and actions reveal the law by which you will be judged referred to in James 2:12? Read Romans 8:5–8 and Galatians 5:3–4, 13–15.
  - b) Describe how you usually experience mercy and judgment in daily life. For help, look up the definition of the word “mercy” before proceeding. Include in your discussion whether you usually give or receive mercy and how you may notice (or not!) mercy triumphs over judgment, as written in James 2:13.
    - c) Pray for wisdom and describe three ways the Holy Spirit is guiding you to change your judgment into acts that reflect you are “loving your neighbor as yourself”.
  
6. a) Study James 2:14–26 carefully. What do you think is the definition of the word “faith” as used in these passages by James? (Does “faith” in this context mean belief, trust, a claim, an affiliation, etc.?)
  - b) In the same way, write out a definition for the way James uses the word “deeds”(NIV) or “works”(NAS). (Are these words used to describe chores, unspecified actions, responsibilities, etc.?)
  
7. a) What problem within the community of readers of this letter do you think these scriptures address in James 2:14–26?

- b) Describe why Abraham's life is used as an example of faith accompanied by deeds in James 2:21–23. Read Genesis 15:3–6, 22:1–2, 9–12 for more information.
8. a) Re-read Ephesians 2:8–10 and compare these verses with Romans 3:22–26, 28 and James 2:14, 22–26. Describe any seeming contradictions and similarities you notice.
- b) The Greek word for “justified” is *dikaioo*. According to Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, the first two definitions of *dikaioo* are:
1. To render righteous or such he ought to be
  2. To show, exhibit, evince one to be righteous, such as he is and wishes himself to be considered
- Which definition of “justified” seems to be used with which of the scriptures referred to in question 9(a) above? How does this change seeming contradictions you noticed?
9. Make a mental timeline of your actions and thoughts within a specific relationship (co-worker, spouse, parent, child, or friend) prior to your becoming a believer and after, or over the span of several years. How have your actions changed as a result of your maturity of faith in Jesus? If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, how have your thoughts and actions changed since starting Bible study? To what do you attribute those changes?