

# Winter Youth Conference 2008

## Lessons from the Book of James

Years ago, there was a publication entitled:  
“All I need to know about life, I learned in the sandbox.”  
These were basic, simple lessons that were elementary – but would take one far in the struggles of life. Well, God has a sandbox also and many profoundly simple lessons can be learned here. We could call the Book of James “God’s Sandbox”. The lessons of this book learned early in life will be a great help to every young person – and these lessons ignored will lead to many problems in life that could have been avoided. The principal is very simple – we learn from the Word of God or we learn by painful experience what would have been far better to have learned from the Word of God!!! We will see this as we look at selected portions of the Book of James.

### CHAPTER 1

1. *Testing* will come because God allows them – What makes the difference is how we react to them.  
Discuss – “Count it all joy”.
2. What is the end result of this testing for the believer?
3. Discuss – “Mature and complete, wanting nothing”.
4. Verse 5 tells us what will be needed when facing these testings.  
Discuss the following:
  - a. How is this Wisdom obtained?
  - b. Discuss the word that describes how God gives.
  - c. What is the thought of “upbraideth not”.
  - d. Discuss the assurance of Wisdom being granted.
5. Verse 6 puts one requirement on the one asking.  
Discuss. What does it mean to waver? Discuss.
6. Verse 7 tells us also of something that is sure for the one who wavers. Discuss.
7. Verse 8 speaks of a double minded man – in how many ways is this man unstable? Discuss.

8. Verses 9 to 11 God's grace exalts the poor and brings low the rich – Discuss.
9. The man of verse 12 is a blessed or a happy man. Discuss. What kind of temptation is involved in the verses beginning with verse 12. There is one characteristic in particular about those to whom the Lord will give "The Crown of Life". Discuss
10. Verses 13 thru 16. What is the root of temptation? Where does it spring from? What does it bring forth and what is the end result?
11. Verses 18 to 21.
  - a. Whose will was involved when we were begotten of God?
  - b. What were we begotten with?
  - c. What are we to be according to the ending of this verse?
  - d. Verse 19 begins with a "Wherefore" and involves a response from each of us. Discuss
    - i. Swift to hear
    - ii. Slow to speak
    - iii. Slow to wrath
  - e. Verse 20 explains why – Discuss
  - f. Verse 21 again starts with a "Wherefore" and involves two things. One we are to "Lay aside" and one we are to "Receive". Discuss
12. Verses 22 to 25.
  - a. Someone is in danger of being deceived. Who is it?
  - b. Discuss hearing, doing and forgetting.
  - c. Discuss the word in verse 20 that describes believers who are going on with the Lord.

## Chapter 2

1. Verses 14 thru 20.
  - a. Discuss the difference between the Book of Romans and the book of James when it deals with a believers works and his being justified before God or before men.
  - b. Verses 15 and 16 show us the futility of words only. Discuss
  - c. Verse 17 gives us the reality of faith being seen. Discuss

- d. Verses 21 to 26 - Discuss the example of Abraham.

### Chapter 3

We now come to this profound chapter dealing with our tongue. How many times have we spoken in a hurry, perhaps without thinking, and would give anything to get those words back! The tongue is the great revealer of the heart!! Our Lord Jesus himself said that “Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh”. Matt 12 – vs 34.

We will learn in this chapter how to deal with this little member that cannot “be tamed”.

1. Verses 1 thru 8.
  - a. Discuss the size of the bit in relation to the size of a horse. With this very small bit this horse is given direction in many ways.
  - b. Look at the great ships of the sea and compare the “very small helm” with the relative size of the ship and discuss the control of ship.
  - c. Now we come to this “little member” of the human body.
    - i. We learn that this member \_\_\_\_\_ great things!
    - ii. We learn that this member \_\_\_\_\_ the whole body!
    - iii. We learn that it is set on fire of \_\_\_\_\_!
    - iv. We learn that it is described as \_\_\_\_\_!
    - v. We learn that naturally it is full of \_\_\_\_\_!
    - vi. We learn that this member cannot be \_\_\_\_\_!

### **WHAT DO WE DO WITH SUCH A MEMBER?**

2. Verses 9 thru 12.

Discuss a man blessing the Father and cursing men.

Look at nature:

- a. Have you ever seen a well giving two kinds of water?
- b. Have you ever gone to a fig tree to get olives?
- c. Have you ever gotten figs off of a vine?

- d. How about a spring giving salt water – then fresh water?

### NOW, LOOK AT THE CONCLUSION OF VERSE 12.

- 3. Verses 13 thru 16
  - a. How did this man become a wise man?
  - b. What is the source of his knowledge?
  - c. His heart is also seen – Discuss.
  - d. Discuss the conclusions arrived at in verses 15 and 16.
- 4. Verses 17 and 18
  - a. Discuss the source of this wisdom.
  - b. Discuss the characteristics of this wisdom.
- 5. Discuss the person described in verse 18 who “makes peace”.

## Chapter 4

The final portion we want to look at is in relation to ourselves and our brothers and sisters in Christ as seen in verses 16 to 21. When we practice these principles, we will be transparent before others. This will lead to the expressed need to pray for one another. Discuss

- 1. Verses 16 to 21.
  - a. What do we do naturally speaking with our faults? Discuss
  - b. Discuss confessing our faults with one another.
  - c. How will this lead to the result of praying for one another?
  - d. Discuss “Effectual, fervent prayer”.
  - e. What kind of a man was Elijah? Discuss
  - f. How was Elijah different than we are?
  - g. Discuss the idea of praying earnestly and specifically for things.