

Faith Works
James 1:1-11
January 21, 2014

I. Review

A. Letter of James

1. Written by James, the _____ - _____ of Jesus
2. Written around A.D. _____
3. Written to primarily _____
 - a. Living outside of _____
4. Purpose
 - a. To _____ the believers to _____ - _____ devotion to Christ

II. Address & Greeting – James 1:1

A. Letter Form

1. Standard form
 - a. Sender, _____, greetings

2. James's greeting is much briefer than most

B. James's Self Description

1. Servant
 - a. An expression of _____

 - b. A title for both Old and New Testament _____

2. Why doesn't he mention that he's Jesus' brother?
 - a. First, _____
 - b. More importantly, it was not James's _____ to Jesus that gave him authority
 - c. It was his _____

C. To the Twelve Tribes

1. Originally the 12 tribes of _____
2. (Very) Brief History
3. Jesus' choice of 12 disciples
4. To whom was James referring?
 - a. James is saying they constitute the true people of _____
 - b. So these believers, Jewish and Gentile, _____ around the Roman world were the people of God

III. Opening Section – Vv. 2-18

A. Finding Connections

1. James tends to move _____ from topic to topic

B. Primary Themes (Motifs)

1. Enduring _____
2. Spiritual _____ or integrity

IV. Enduring Trials – Vv. 2-4

A. Getting Right To It

1. James is so anxious to begin exhorting his readers
2. James's basic point is that God allows difficulties into believers' lives for a _____

B. Consider it Pure Joy

1. My _____
2. Pure _____

3. Trial – *peirasmos*

- a. Can mean an unexpected, outward _____ or _____

4. Trials they may have been facing

- a. _____

- b. _____
- c. Can be any sort of trial

C. Why Joy?

1. Seems odd
2. Trials test our faith
 - a. And is in this testing, and persevering under it, that we mature

 - b. It is part of the process of becoming more like _____
3. Refining process
4. Perseverance
 - a. The word means “to _____”
5. Perseverance leads to spiritual _____

D. Why Would God Bring (or Allow) Trials?

1. Two thoughts
 - a. The suffering of Christians is always under the providential
_____ of God who wants the _____ for his children
 - b. God may have _____ for trials that we cannot understand

V. Wisdom – Vv. 5-8

A. Connection

1. Verbal link
 - a. “Lack”
2. James is saying that _____ is necessary if they are to persevere in
a godly way under _____

B. Ask for Wisdom

1. Wisdom is seeing things the way _____ sees them
2. Wisdom is what allows us to _____ and _____ the will of God
3. Proverbs tells us that wisdom
 - a. Keeps us from _____
 - b. Enables us to live a life that _____ God
4. God will give it if we just _____

C. Give Generously

1. Root word means “_____” or “_____”

2. James has taken the virtue of integrity and applied it to _____

3. Spiritual _____ may be the most important theme in James

4. What James is saying

- a. _____ has a single, undivided intent to give wisdom to his children
- b. And he does so without _____ for our previous track record

D. The Right Attitude

1. We must ask with a single _____

2. Doubt

- a. Not the _____ doubt we all have
- b. Doubt that brings about _____ in our attitude toward God

3. Powerful Word Picture

- a. _____ of the sea

E. Double-Minded

1. Literally “double-souled”

2. God will not respond to the prayers for wisdom of such a person

VI. Rich Man...Poor Man – Vv. 9-11

A. Contrast

1. Between a “brother in humble circumstances”

2. And another person who is _____

3. Two questions

- a. How do these verses fit into the _____?
- b. Is the rich person a _____?

B. Is the Rich Man a Believer?

1. Yes (hesitantly) for two reasons

- a. The _____ of the verses indicate he is
- b. Later James is going to cast rich _____ in a much more negative light

C. James’s Point

1. James is exhorting each person (poor and rich) to look toward their _____ identity as the measure of their ultimate significance
2. To the poor Christian, James is saying to look beyond the _____ of this world

3. To the wealthy Christian, James is saying to not take pride in their _____ or social _____

D. How Does This Passage Connect With James's Teaching?

1. Poverty and even wealth are among the _____ James has been discussing
2. James still has an eye on single-minded _____ – not being “double-souled”

VII. Application: Facing Trials

A. Trials are Universal

1. We will face _____ in life

B. Two Thoughts

1. God may see our trials _____ than we do

2. Trials allow God to _____ in us what could not otherwise be grown *if we respond to them correctly*