

MESSAGE NOTES

September 5, 2010



No Pain, No Gain

James 1:1-4
#1 James Series

Who was James?

To whom did James write his book?

What is the message of James?

September 6-September 11, 2010

MONDAY

Read James 1:1–4. The author identifies himself as James, whom church tradition has consistently understood to be James, the half brother of Jesus. Read Matthew 13:54–57; John 7:5; 1 Corinthians 15:7; Acts 1:14; and Galatians 2:7–9. What were the significant events that led to James' conversion into a bond-servant of Jesus Christ? How does James' address to "the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad" help us specifically identify his original audience?

TUESDAY

Reread James 1:2–4. What is the typical response that people tend to have when they face trials? According to James, what is the unique attitude of the heart that we as believers should have when we face trials? How can you intentionally cultivate this type of attitude? (See Romans 8:28–29; Galatians 2:20; and Hebrews 12:2.)

WEDNESDAY

For the remainder of the week, we will read through the entire book of James as an overview of our study this fall. The following questions based on James' teaching will serve as an evaluation that will help each of us in recognizing the importance of our desperate need for Christ and depending on the power of the Holy Spirit. Consider asking someone close to you to evaluate you as well.

Read James 1:2–25 and answer the following questions on a scale from 1 (Never) to 5 (All the Time):

- 1. During trials, it is my habit to seek God for wisdom and strength (1:2–12).
1 ----- 5
- 2. When tempted, I normally turn away and replace the temptation with godly thoughts and dependence on the power of the Holy Spirit (1:13–18).
1 ----- 5
- 3. When I study the Bible, I do so with the objective of obeying what it says in the power of the Holy Spirit (1:19–25).
1 ----- 5

THURSDAY

Read James 1:26–2:26 and answer the following questions on a scale from 1 (Never) to 5 (All the Time):

- 4. I treat people according to their value in the sight of God and I refuse to judge others based on superficial external criteria (1:26–2:13).
1 ----- 5
- 5. When I am exposed to a pressing need that I can meet, I take action to meet it (2:14–26).
1 ----- 5

FRIDAY

Read James 3:1–4:12 and answer the following questions on a scale from 1 (Never) to 5 (All the Time):

- 6. Those who know me best say that I am careful to control my tongue (3:1–12).
1 ----- 5
- 7. People consider me to be a peacemaker and they seek me out for godly wisdom (3:13–18).
1 ----- 5

WEEKEND

Read James 4:13–5:20 and answer the following questions on a scale from 1 (Never) to 5 (All the Time):

- 8. My lifestyle and worldview are significantly different from the unbelievers I know (4:1-12).
1 ----- 5
- 9. I have a habit of seeking God before I make major decisions (4:13–17).
1 ----- 5
- 10. I recognize that the resources at my disposal belong to God and I manage them for His glory (5:1–11).
1 ----- 5
- 11. Those who know me best would say that my troubles drive me to dependence on God (5:12–20).
1 ----- 5
- 12. Prayer is a part of my daily life (5:13–20).
1 ----- 5

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A three-hole punch is available in the Library for those who keep these in a notebook.