

# JAMES

*This letter is from James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is written to Jewish Christians scattered among the nations. (Greek: to the twelve tribes in the dispersion.) Dear brothers and sisters, whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything. James 1:1-4 NLT*

Your faith is being tested every day, little children, for whom Christ died. Just as your father Abraham had been put to the test, offering his son Isaac, so you will have your faith tested. This is an ongoing occurrence, daily making your faith stronger and more resilient.

Sometimes the child of God is tested to the maximum. It is in this case that you are entering into the sufferings of Christ, who did so that you might live! No matter what you are facing, it will work out for your good! What can harm you with the Master of the universe by your side? Do not doubt, but only believe!

This book of James will be a catalyst to spur you on to greater victory! In the pages of this book are wisdom and knowledge to improve your walk with your Creator and sustainer, your Rock, your hiding place.

Every day of your life is significant. Make the most of every opportunity. Amen and amen

*If you need wisdom-if you want to know what God wants you to do-ask him and he will gladly tell you. He will not resent your asking. But when you ask him, be sure that you really expect him to answer, for a doubtful mind is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. People like that should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. They can't make up their minds. They waver back and forth in everything they do. James 1:5-8 NLT*

It is good to give thanks unto the Lord every day of your life! He is working out everything for your good! No man is an island and you need the Lord in every aspect of your life.

Do not hesitate to ask the Lord your God for wisdom to fulfill your destiny. He is guiding you every day to that final destination.

Wisdom: Good sense, the ability to make sensible decisions and judgment based on knowledge and personal experience... ..ancient sayings or teachings. Taken from Encarta dictionary

"Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding." *Proverbs 2:2 NLT*

Wisdom will be your constant companion if you make it a priority in your life. Read the whole chapter of Proverbs 2. Amen and amen

*Christians who are poor should be glad, for God has honored them. James 1:9 NLT*

Poverty of soul is much more a travesty than poverty in which money is lacking. When my people are poor but rich in faith, I honor that in them. However I see that they have all they need. In many of my children, sudden riches would be a distraction from me. That is why I give them their needs on a daily basis.

Riches are mine to give when I see that seeking the kingdom is my child's first priority. That is why I tell you to seek first the kingdom of God and all these "things" will be added. I know what you have need of before you ask.

No one having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. All the money in the past, whether squandered or used wisely, is a thing of the past. Do not look back, but be determined in your heart to press forward and take the kingdom in a forceful manner.

Ask me to show you how to spend your money in the most effective way. I am the Great Financier and will direct you. Amen and amen

*And those who are rich should be glad, for God has humbled them. They will fade away like a flower in the field. The hot sun rises and dries up the grass; the flower withers, and its beauty fades away. So also, wealthy people will fade away with all of their achievements. James 1:10-11 NLT*

The Lord your God is the one who gives his people the power to get wealth, and he can also take it away. No one should trust in uncertain riches. Money should be used to perpetuate the kingdom of God. Then truly, they have treasure in heaven.

The rich of this world are high-minded and many times, arrogant. They think of only accumulating more and more. They cannot take it to the grave; they must leave all of it!

Everyone has a little money to rule over. Give a portion to God's work here in this world. The widow's mite is powerful and reaps rich rewards. Give as you are able. I know some may not have a job or have run out of funds, but even there, they can give of their time and talents. When they resume making money, they must not forget the Creators' work. Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit those in prison. Visit those who are sick, and give water to the thirsty. Visit the widows in their affliction and pay attention to orphans. Amen and amen

*God blesses the people who patiently endure testing. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those that love him. James 1:12 NLT*

Patience is a rare commodity in these last days. The "instant society" could not stand "dial up", so faster speeds became available. How then, can a born again believer develop patience? It is through suffering and testing that patience is manifested in my people. Did I not say, "Take up your cross and follow me?" When the winds of adversity blow upon your craft, be joyful because of the patience you are acquiring!

Testing is only for a season. I do not let more come upon you than you can bear. Take heart in that fact. I know how much you can bear. Testing is for your profit and not for your loss.

If you could see the plans I have for you, it would utterly astound you! Trust me to see you through anything! All that happens to you is spurring you into new heights.

Ask yourself if your crown, which you will have for all eternity, is worth the continual testing. A crown of life! For all eternity you will praise me, the one who died to make this glorious plan possible. The ages will roll on and on! Hallelujah to the Lamb of God! Amen and amen

*And remember, no one who wants to do wrong should ever say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else either. James 1:13 NLT*

Temptation is all around the child of God. Every day the media is shouting, "Come look at this" The media sensationalizes the news all the time. Do not get caught up in their wily schemes. It is sufficient to know, if it is the truth. If it is not, then you would believe a lie!

See that you keep your mind and heart pure in the midst of a wicked and perverse generation. Close your eyes when temptation comes your way. Pray for the strength to resist. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. He is the author of all-evil, and he is a master at presenting it in such a way that, if you are not on guard he will slip temptation in on you. Before you know it, he has accomplished his evil deed be wise and turn him off even if it should be by way of movies, TV and all its forms on the Internet.

You are living in the best of times and the worst of times. Be aware of the traps and pitfalls and flee from them. Keep your eyes on the one who made you. He will keep you from falling. Amen and amen

*Temptation comes from the lure of our own evil desires. These evil desires lead to evil actions, and evil actions lead to death. So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. James 1:14-16 NLT*

When evil is prevalent, there is every kind of diabolical work. Witness this on a daily basis, crime has skyrocketed and murder is at an all time high. The second book of Timothy, chapter three predicts this day in which you live:

*2 Timothy 3:1-5* There are people who are lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful and proud, scoffing at God. They are disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, considering nothing to be sacred. They are unloving and unforgiving, slandering others and lacking self-control. They are cruel; having no interest in what is good. They betray their friends, are reckless, and puffed up with pride, loving pleasure rather than God. They act as though they are religious, but reject the power that can make them godly. You must stay away from people like that!

Evil communication corrupts good manners. Corruption causes decay of moral character. Do not become partakers of evil deeds, even in your thoughts! You will become what you let your mind dwell on. Let Christ's mind dwell in you. When tempted by the devil, Jesus quoted the appropriate scriptures to him and he had to slink away, snake that he is!

My little children, follow your Savior's example and ask, "What would Jesus do?" Amen and amen

*Whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God above, who created all heavens lights. Unlike them, he never changes or casts shifting shadows. In his goodness he chose to make his own children by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prize possession. James 1:17-18 NLT*

So let it be said again, you are my prize possession, my little children! For this reason you were born, and for this reason you have a bright future. Many do not realize this and think they must placate God the Father to be in his good graces. However, you can approach him with a prayer of deep repentance, accepting the sacrifice on the cross by your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who died for all mankind!

The Lord has said, "I change not", therefore it is his children that must change, Change your will to become his! Change your way of thinking to become his way of thinking, through reading his holy word. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind! Then and only then you will know what he wants you to do!

All good and perfect things come to us by our Father in heaven. He created us so we could be born again of water and spirit. Then after overcoming, we will be in his family forevermore! World without end! Amen and amen

*My dear brothers and sisters, be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Your anger can never make things right in God's sight. James 1:19-20 NLT*

It is time to address anger in the life of my children.

Anger: A strong feeling of grievance and displeasure Become or make greatly annoyed, irritation, fury, Rage, resentment. Taken from the Encarta dictionary.

It is in rage that murder is committed. It is in resentment that hearts are made cold and hardened. These things are not to be found in a Christian. I give you the space of a day, and to get rid of anger before the setting sun. That means to be angry, but give it to me before it becomes rooted in your heart and spills over into your fellowmen. When this happens, many are defiled.

In this fast paced society, there are many given to anger because of impatience and selfishness. Take the example of those on the road. Many think they should have the right of way when they are in the wrong of way. Anger hurts the individual and contributes to all kinds of physical illnesses.

In his earthly tenure Christ had righteous indignation. This is the right kind of anger toward a behavior and not a person, because he loved everyone, even those plotting his death. He knew they didn't realize the extent of their anger toward him. Amen and amen

*So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the message God has planted in your hearts, for it is strong enough to save your souls. James 1:21 NLT*

There are those in the body of Christ that would water down the word of God. In the opposite extreme, there are those who would add a lot of legalism to the freedom, which is in Christ. Either extreme is unacceptable to your Lord and Master.

Moderation is a virtue that must be practiced in your daily lives, my little children. Treat the word as you would a good friend. A friend that is true and loyal will not speak any ill will or exaggeration, but will always speak well of him, or her.

To be careful to speak no filthy words, or entertain evil in your lives is a continual problem and must be addressed every day. Clean out your heart and mind of all evil and wrongdoing. Do not look at your neighbor and judge him for any wrongdoing, but examine your own motives and wrong desires. That will give you a full time job.

The message God has given you is to trust him in all situations. Do not panic, but let Christ in you work out every circumstance. Keep your focus on the Savior of your soul. Amen and amen

*And remember, it is a message to obey, not just to listen to. If you don't obey, you are only fooling yourself for if you just listen and don't obey; it is like looking at your face in a mirror, but doing nothing to improve your appearance. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you keep on looking steadily into God's perfect law-the law that sets you free-and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it. James 1:22-25 NLT*

It is not the hearer of the law of liberty, but hearing and obeying that counts with your Creator. The Lord your God is a good God and wants you to walk with him in harmony and peace. It is for you as well, to walk with your fellowman with peace and tranquility. If they do not choose to do this with you, then it is time to ask them what the matter is. Try to live in peace if at all possible.

The other thing I want you to keep uppermost in your mind is to TRUST me in all circumstances, whether the matter is large or small. Give it to me and I will work out a solution. Do not let your flesh rule your spirit. Overcome evil with good.

Rewards are coming in this life and in the life to come. Don't trade your birthright for a bowl of beans, but honor it by understanding how great it is! Amen and amen

*If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are just fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. Pure and lasting religion in the sight of God our Father means that we must care for orphans and widows in their troubles and refuse to let the world corrupt us. James 1:26-27 NLT*

The world is in turmoil because of its many sins and foibles.

Foible: a weakness or quirk.-Encarta Dictionary.

So you see my little children for whom Christ died, weaknesses are extant in the world, and in the body of Christ. One of these sins is the lack of taming the tongue. This is a process that you must contend with every day of your lives. The tongue will be covered in another chapter in this book at a later date.

Religion has had a bad name for decades because of its form and ritual. Many of my people, who genuinely start out in the Spirit, end up in the flesh because of this travesty.

Travesty: a distorted or debased version of something.  
Encarta Dictionary

To be birthed into the Spirit means that you are now seated in heavenly places along with the Messiah and soon coming King. Therefore, do not water down the truth, which is the word of the Living God. Amen and amen

*My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim that you have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people more than others? For instance, suppose someone comes in your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in shabby clothes. If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, "You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor"—well, doesn't this discrimination show you are guided by wrong motives? Listen to me, dear brothers and sisters. Hasn't God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren't they the ones who will inherit the kingdom God promised to those who love him? And yet you insult the poor man! Isn't it the rich who oppress you and drag you into court? Aren't they the ones who slander Jesus Christ, whose noble name you bear? James 2:1-7 NLT*

It is self explanatory in these verses of the second chapter of James, and the Christian of today would do well to follow these instructions. To have respect of persons is not a godly attribute. The poor are to be treated as well as the rich, for in God's sight, they are all his precious children.

It would be good for the rich in the church to note those who are in genuine need and help them to get on their feet. And it would be good for those who are financially prosperous to teach the poor how to use the principles of managing money correctly. There are certain keys to financial gain. When used for the glory of God, good success is the result. Amen and amen

*Yes indeed, it is good when you truly obey our Lord's royal command found in the scriptures: "Love your neighbor as yourself." But if you pay special attention to the rich, you are committing sin, for you are guilty of breaking that law. James 2:8-9 NLT*

It is good not to have respect of persons. Your Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus, loves everyone, both great and small. In order for anyone to love their neighbor, there must be this premise. You must love regardless of station in life, occupation, race, color or creed. Your Creator made all peoples of all races with various talents and abilities.

Seeing this is the springboard for your Christian life, it is incumbent for you to erase all prejudice and pride. It is ugly and shameful to have respect of persons. Treat your poor brother as though he were rich and your rich brother as though he were poor. Thus, the scales of justice become balanced.

If you can grasp the spirit of this law, you will be my disciple in deed. There are rewards that are so great, that your mind cannot comprehend. If you could see into my realm, pride and prejudice would disappear! A word to the wise is sufficient! Amen and amen

*And the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as the person who has broken all of God's laws. For the same God who said "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." So if you murder someone, you have broken the entire law, even if you do not commit adultery. James 2:10-11 NLT*

It is good to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind because if you do, you become mindful of his law of love. If you love, you will not break any of his laws intentionally.

To become a lawbreaker, you must have knowledge of the law. I say this because many heathen tribes know it is wrong to murder their fellowman. No one wants to have someone steal his or her possessions. And so it goes for all the commandments. They are for the world's good and to protect their rights.

America has unjust judges in the land and many lawbreakers are given leniency. They are unleashed on society, and multiple crimes are committed over and over again. Taxpayers are supporting criminals! And so it is that many think they are not facing a day of reckoning. However, that day will surely come!

Repent quickly of any infraction against your Maker and your fellowman. His laws are for your benefit, and to protect your families. Amen and amen

*So whenever you speak, or whatever you do, remember that you will be judged by the law of love, the law that set you free. For there will be no mercy for you if you have not been merciful to others. But if you have been merciful, then God's mercy toward you will win out over his judgment against you. James 2:12-13 NLT*

The law of love supersedes the written code. It is the new testament, ratified by the blood of the Lamb. This blood covers all sins of which my people have repented. They are being transformed by reading the word, and being renewed in their minds, daily. The only sin that cannot be forgiven is blaspheming against the Holy Spirit. This means consciously rejecting him and his power.

To be merciful is an attribute of God. It is godly to extend mercy to your fellowman.

Mercy:

Compassion: kindness or forgiveness shown especially to somebody a person has power over.  
Encarta dictionary

So extend the same mercy to others as you may also come against a problem where you need mercy extended to you. Deposit mercy in your heavenly account, so that you may withdraw it when you need it most! Amen and amen

*Dear brothers and sisters, what's the use of saying you have faith if you don't prove it by your actions? That kind of faith can't save anyone. Suppose you see a brother or sister who needs food and clothing, and you say, "Well goodbye and God bless you; stay warm and eat well"-but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? James 2:14-16 NLT*

It is good to always give thanks unto the Lord every day of your lives, my little children. There are a multitude of reasons to thank God your Father for another day of life. Life does not define itself by the abundance of things in your possessions. That is the reason you must share with those who are poor and needy. Yes I did say, "You will always have the poor among you." When you see a need, address that need accordingly.

Remember the former days, when you were living in poverty. I picked you up and made a way for you. Extend that same hand of prosperity for your fellowman, no matter what his race, religion or color, for all are made in the image of God. There is always something you can give, even if it only your time or talent.

Consider the widow and the orphan, be Christ's hand to them as well. Pray for My Kingdom to come, it is then that the war on poverty will be won! In Micah 4: 4 my word relates concerning the rule of the Messiah on this earth: "Everyone will live quietly in their own homes in peace and prosperity." Pray for the Lord your God to hasten that day! Amen and amen

*So you see, it isn't enough just to have faith. Faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is no faith at all-it is dead and useless. Now some may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." I say, "I can't see your faith if you don't have good deeds, but I will show you my faith through my good deeds." James 2:17-18 NLT*

Faith is extended to all my people. Faith is a curious thing to those of the world, because they are not connected to my Spirit. In order to have faith, a person must surrender to me and give their all to me. Faith is generated by this connection to me, your Lord and Savior. If it is not, then a blind hoping is generated.

What is faith? *Hebrews 11: 1* defines faith. It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot see.

So you see there is a confidence in God that is generated in the child of God. Faith must be in the Spirit. Trust is also a prerequisite, for trusting in God is also necessary. Do not be dismayed; all is coming into fruition in the lives of my little ones.

Yes, your deeds match your faith, for they are companions. Amen and amen

*Do you still believe it's enough just to believe there is one God? Well, even the demons believe this and they tremble in terror! Fool! When will you ever learn that faith that does not result in good deeds is useless? James 2:19-20 NLT*

It is good to give thanks today and every day to the Lord your God! It is he that gives you the breath of life. He fills you with good things, so your strength is renewed, like the eagles.

Good deeds, when they are done honestly and sincerely, are truly blessed. When it is done for the sheer joy of serving your fellowman, then you have a reward. If it is done for any other reason, it becomes a sham and hypocrisy.

Faith then is the reason for performing good deeds. When you are in the faith, then good deeds are sure to follow. Give a helping hand to your neighbor. Open the door for those that are handicapped. Give a ride to those who need transportation. Invite the poor to a meal. Send a card to those who are sick. Help a widow in distress. Invite an orphan to go with your family on an outing. Encourage the faint of heart. Pray for the sick and unemployed. Be there for them when they are depressed. Hold the hand of the dying, be the hand of God.

If you do this, and many other things, you will not lose your reward. Amen and amen.

*Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was declared right with God because of what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see, he was trusting God so much that he was willing to do whatever God told him to do. His faith was made complete by what he did-by his actions. James 2:21-22 NLT*

There are no worries by the people of God when they are completely dedicated to the Lord their God. He is the Creator of the heavens and the earth and all that is contained in them. Worship the Lord all you people in all the lands extant on the face of the earth. Come together in harmony and fellowship, for we are one faith, one baptism, one body. All of you should band together for the common good of the body. Pray for each other, be true brothers and sisters!

Abraham was called the friend of God because he believed God. That is where true righteousness begins. Doubters must repent of their doubting! The scriptures do not say: Abraham doubted God. No! He believed God and acted accordingly. You all are the children of Abraham, if you BELIEVE! When you believe, you also are the friend of God. Then do what your Father in heaven asks you to do. This goes on daily. If you fall, repent and get up. Abraham was not perfect, and my children today are not perfect. However, I look for belief in my children. Go forth in the sure knowledge that faith in me is making you whole, body, soul, and spirit! Amen and amen

*And so it happened just as the scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, so God declared him to be righteous." He was even called "the friend of God." So you see, we are made right with God by what we do, not by faith alone. James 2:23-24 NLT*

Many people are searching for the manifestation of the sons of God to be revealed. They want to see genuine and sincere people of God that truly know God and exemplify his righteousness. Will you be part of that number looking on the sicknesses and the griefs of others? Will you minister to them and be the hand of God in their lives? Will you cry with them, and hold them in your arms? Will you treat them as you would your own mother and brother or sister? Will you be their comfort in times of trouble? Will you give of your substance to send them forth to a lost and dying world? These are questions that must be answered by you if you would demonstrate your faith.

The hand and heart of God should be demonstrated every day of your life. I do a work in you so that you may extend that work to others. Heal the sick, cast out devils in my name, lift up the downtrodden, and the fallen. Extend my grace to them, pray with them. Give them shoes for their feet, food, water, and a roof over their heads. That is true faith and that is true love, emanating from the Father above, who would have all mankind to be saved. Amen and amen

*Rahab the prostitute is another example of this. She was made right with God by her actions-when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. Just as the body is dead without a spirit so also faith is dead without good deeds. James 2:25-26 NLT*

Why is the Lord so loving of prostitutes in the bible? Why does he not condemn and shame them? It is because they live their lives in shame, condemned by their own family, and friends and they are treated in a most despicable manner, even by their own customers. They, in most cases know they need a redeemer, and so, your Lord and Savior forgives them just as he forgives you. He or she, who is forgiven much, also loves much.

Rahab is a case in point, for she was saved by her good deeds. Her family was saved as well. She became an ancestor of one who would be the Redeemer for the whole world! Thank God Almighty, who has no respect of persons!

And so, my dear children for whom Christ died, show me your faith by good deeds. This is the only harmonious and satisfying life. It is a life filled with joy. Your faith is tested every day. Be aware of how to demonstrate your faith to your Lord and Master Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living, all powerful God! Amen and amen.

*Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged by God with greater strictness. James 3:1 NLT*

To teach is a gift that must be used wisely. For what is conveyed to others must be true and righteous. No one can teach in this way without the guidance of the blessed Holy Spirit.

A teacher of the way of God must be holy as I am holy. He or she must be rooted and grounded in the faith. They must be well versed in the word of God. They must be consistent in season or out of season. This means when it is convenient, and when it is not convenient. They must be proactive in their approach.

Proactive: taking the initiative rather than reacting to events. From the Encarta Dictionary

- Practical
- hands on
- down to business
- positive
- upbeat

So you see there must be consistency in the life of all my teachers in my body, which is in Christ Jesus. Amen and amen

*We all make many mistakes, but those who control their tongues can also control themselves in every other way. James 3:2 NLT*

It is good to discuss the tongue, with all it's ramifications for there are many consequences to a lack of governing this member of your body.

To control what you are thinking is a remarkable thing indeed. For out of the heart, the mouth speaks. So if you control your mind and bring it into subjection to the mind of Christ, you win most of the battle. However, there are many in my body that is given to gossip. Thus, the tongue is unleashed in a most unprofitable manner.

Ask yourself this question when you gossip, "Would I want this matter to be in the newspaper's headlines, quoting my words of gossip or slander?" I think when it is viewed in this light; your words would be few indeed.

It is better to be silent and walk away from a situation and be thought unfriendly, than to stay and join in a gossip session. For if you partake, you are hurting yourself and the person discussed and many false rumors are generated! Practice control of your mind and tongue today. Amen and amen.

*We can make a large horse turn around and go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. And a tiny rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot wants it to go, even though the winds are strong. So also, the tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do. A tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is full of wickedness that can ruin your whole life. It can turn the entire course of your life into a flaming blaze of destruction, for it is set on fire by hell itself. James 3:3-6 NLT*

Can the tongue do all this? Yes it is true my little children, for whom Christ died! The airways are replete with curses and damning others to hell every minute of every 24 hour day. The tongue can bless or curse!

That is why I tell you to think before you speak. Think of this: your tongue is capable of killing someone's heart and mind. Do not do this wicked thing by entertaining wrong thoughts. Love will help you to speak words of kindness and peace.

Seeing this is so, and that you will be judged on every idle word, think before you speak. Ask the Lord your God to help you guard your tongue. Amen and amen

*People can tame all kind of animals and birds and reptiles and fish, but no one can tame the tongue. It is an uncontrollable evil, full of deadly poison. Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it breaks out into curses against those who have been made in the image of God. James 3:7-9 NLT*

It comes easy to the carnal mind to criticize and condemn others. People are sacrificed on the altar of sanctimoniousness and hypocrisy.

Too many of my people have this proclivity. It is a stench to my nostrils. Get a grip on your lips! Your prayers are a travesty to me when your heart is not right with your brother or sister! Ask me to forgive this disease of the tongue and mind. Repent you that bear the vessels of the Lord! Rend your hearts and not your garments.

Instead have compassion on your fellowman as I do. I see their hearts and know their thoughts, and you do not. Save all your judgments to examine yourself and then you will not have time to judge another. Judgment is now on the house of God. Amen and amen

*And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? Can you pick olives from a fig tree or figs from a grapevine? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty pool. James 3:10-12 NLT*

Now is the time to tame the tongue in your mouth. Let words of life spring forth. Speak true and righteous things; speak the truth in all sincerity. Speak life into depressed souls. Speak joy and gladness, speak hope and cheerfulness. Speak love to the unlovely; speak the words of life every day. Then you will be my true ambassadors.

An ambassador is one who represents his country. You are representing a heavenly country. An ambassador must be careful that he speaks diplomatically. He or she cannot speak words of strife or controversy, if he is to be a proper man of good will. Follow this format for your country and so fulfill your assignment successfully.

In the final analysis be a good example in every area of your life, for your reward is eternal! Amen and amen

*If you are wise and understand God's ways, live a life of steady goodness so that only good deeds will pour forth. And if you don't brag about the good you do, then you will be truly wise! James 3:13 NLT*

In the last days there are boasters. If you do a good deed by the power of God, of what can you boast? It is he that is within you that inspires you to do good deeds. Of and by yourself, you can do nothing, absolutely nothing! When you help someone in need, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing!

My little children for whom Christ died, if you boast or brag about your good deed, you will lose your reward. Keep it between you and God alone, and you will truly be blessed.

You cannot lift a little finger without your Father in Heaven. Seeing this is so, be humble in your walk with the Lord your God, and do not become unwise or believe you have done something in your own power. Pride can rear its ugly head at any given moment of the day or night. Walk softly before the Lord your God. Do not let the monster of pride be a stumbling block for you. Amen and amen

*But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your hearts, don't brag about being wise. This is the worst kind of lie. For jealousy and selfishness is not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unscriptural, and motivated by the devil. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and every kind of evil. James 3: 14-16 NLT*

Jealousy is a heinous sin, for it knows no bounds. Jealousy kills the spirit of a man or woman. There is no rest for one who is jealous. It eats away like a cancer. Its bedfellows are unforgiveness and anger. Anger leads to murder, whether carried out in reality or fantasy. Hatred is also an ally.

In order to avoid this green-eyed monster, you must pray earnestly and forcefully at the slightest provocation of ill will. Nip it in the bud and let your Lord and Savior handle the situation. It may be that the person you are angry with is not to blame at all! Look at your part in the matter and repent quickly!

Above all, see that you put on your armor daily, to defend and advance. It is your archenemy, Satan that sows discord among the brethren. Be wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove. Amen and amen

*But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no partiality and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness. James 3:17-18 NLT*

No wisdom of this world is the true wisdom that comes from the Father in heaven. What is wisdom?

Wisdom: the ability to make sensible decisions and judgments—Good sense shown in a way of thinking, judgment or action. Encarta Dictionary.

Human wisdom is not enough; all need the wisdom that comes from above. For your heavenly Father knows all the ramifications of any given situation. If you ask me for wisdom, I will give it to you. Wisdom is the answer to life's thorny problems. Read Proverbs: chapters 2 and 3.

Wisdom is to be acquired more than riches in gold and silver. Wisdom is a crown of life to all that attain it. Get wisdom and understanding from the Lord your God. Amen and amen.

*What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Isn't it the whole army of evil desires at war within you? You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous for what others have, and you can't possess it, so you fight and quarrel to take it away from them. And yet the reason you don't have what you want is that you don't ask God for it. James 4:1-2 NLT*

How many times, my little children, are there quarrels among you? Do you see how destructive and petty this is? I sit in the heavens and observe my children, who are called by my name, arguing and behaving as babies in a playpen fighting over a toy. The anger and rage that is generated is an awful sight to behold!

Why not come in humility to your Father in heaven to make your requests known? Ask and you will receive, seek and you shall find, knock and the door will be opened to you! That is my ironclad promise. However too many times my children try to work out their own solutions this is why I say, "Come to me first!"

I want only good things for you. Give your brothers and sisters the benefit of the doubt. "Live and let live!" "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you!" Case dismissed! Amen and amen

*And even when you do ask, you don't get it because your whole motive is wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure. James 4:3 NLT*

There is that wrong premise in the mind of man that causes him to go astray. The reason being, there is no integrity in him.

Integrity: Possession of firm principles—the quality of possessing and steadfastly adhering to high moral principles or professional standards—completeness—the state of being complete or undivided—wholeness—the state of being sound or undamaged.  
Encarta dictionary.

Christ walked the earth with integrity. He knew every eye was on him. His heavenly Father knew every move he made. He had to be above reproach in every area of life. He had to steal away in the early morning hours to converse with the Father of all mankind.

If your elder brother had to do this, how much more do you? When you ask God for something, check your motives and see if they line up with integrity, completeness and wholeness. Ask according to God's will and your prayers will be answered! Amen and amen

*You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with this world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again, that if your aim is to enjoy this world, you can't be a friend of God. James 4:4 NLT*

"What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and grief's to bear." Yes, the old hymn reminds you to be a friend to Jesus, and he will carry you through the storms of life. What friend in this world could be with you 24 hours a day 7 days a week? Only your Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, the Savior of all mankind, can be such a friend!

The god of this world is Satan the arch deceiver. He is a liar and was from the beginning. He is the father of lies because there is no truth in him. His friendship will lead to hell and everlasting separation from God.

When you view it in this light, I am sure you will agree that to be a friend to the world is highly ridiculous. Yet my people who claim to be mine, become as an unfaithful wife to her husband, and commit spiritual adultery by watching movies that are filth and ungodliness. No! Being this kind of friend leads to death! Hanging around partaking in the world's evil deeds brands you as unfaithful, an adulterer!

Repent of this quickly and do the will of your Father in heaven. Amen and amen

*What do you think the scriptures mean when they say that the Holy Spirit, whom God has placed within us, jealously longs for us to be faithful? He gives us more and more strength to stand against such evil desires. As the scriptures say, "God sets himself against the proud, but he shows favor to the humble." James 4:5-6 NLT*

Faith, faith, God's faith, given to those that have accepted his way of life. There is much discussion in my church about faith. Some have little faith and some have great faith. Faith is a learned process. When converted, you are given a measure of faith. Then, as you progress in your walk with me, your faith becomes enlarged. To be faithful is to walk consistently every day. It is a process. So do not compare yourself with other Christians, you have your own faith-walk.

As you progress (and you do) you become strengthened more and more. This is also a process. I measure your progress as you measure your children's height and weight, only I do it spiritually. I am encouraged by your progress! Do you realize this?

So, in conclusion, do not let pride rear its ugly head in your life. Live humbly in all things. Walk humbly, talk humbly.

Humble: modest and unassuming in attitude and behavior. Respectful.-Encarta Dictionary.

Amen and amen

*So humble yourselves before God. Resist the Devil and he will flee from you. James 4:7 NLT*

The Devil is the main topic for today. He is the author of confusion. He is a liar, and the father of lies, because he was a liar from the beginning. It is he that deceives the whole world!

Why was he allowed to exist? He was the anointed angel around God's throne. He made beautiful music to the Father in Heaven. He was beautiful in appearance, until the day when he tried to seize the throne of the Most High God. There was war in heaven and Lucifer; the light bringer was transformed into Satan, the adversary. He was cast down to earth, and one third of the rebellious angels, were cast down with him.

Ever since that time, there has been sin in the world. Satan, having his will thwart, turned on the men in the image of God. And so the battle rages on in the hearts of men.

Satan is the author of all sin and filth that is extant in the world today. He knows his time is short, and he is raging with a vengeance!

The good news is that he was defeated by the death and resurrection of the Son of the living God, who paid the price for all the sins that man has committed. There is forgiveness for those who accept his sacrifice. Satan is a defeated foe! Amen and amen

*Draw close to God, and he will draw close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, you hypocrites. James 4:8 NLT*

Find a truehearted Christian and you will discover a precious pearl. This Christian is true even though the days are evil. Even though the sky may be closing in on him, because of all he holds dear, he is still trustworthy! Why is he in this condition? He counted the cost and is willing to pay his all to the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

So I admonish you to draw close to me, and I will draw close to you. As you draw close to me, with no hidden agenda, I look on your heart and see you want me above all else. Above all possessions, above all others, you come meekly and without pretensions. This is the heart that is contrite and humble. And so, you may come boldly before me, with confidence.

Do not be double minded and wishy-washy. I do not delight in this approach. Be wholehearted and true. Come expecting to be heard. Worship me in spirit and in truth. Amen and amen.

*Let there be tears for the wrong things you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and doom instead of joy. When you bow down before the Lord and admit your dependence on him, he will lift you up and give you honor. James 4:9-10 NLT*

There are those that would mock the Lord by their very actions and deeds. They say they want God's will in their lives, but try to work out their own will. In doing so, God removes himself from the situation. The reason I counsel my children to wait on the Lord is that they run ahead of me and try to "fix" a situation instead of letting me handle it! My little children, for whom Christ died, do not do this wicked deed! For when you do, you put yourself in my place and become your own little god!

I know you haven't looked at the situations you find yourself in this way, but repent of it and remember what I told you!

I am the Sovereign Lord, and beside me there is no other! I will do what is best for you if you let me. So wait on the Lord your God, and do not falter. I will rescue you and know that you cannot rescue yourself!

Go forward then, letting me make the crooked places straight. Amen and amen.

*Don't speak evil against each other, my dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize each other and condemn each other, then you are criticizing and condemning God's law. But you are not a judge who can decide whether this law is right or wrong. Your job is to obey it. God alone, who made the law, can rightly judge among us. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to condemn your neighbor? James 4:11-12 NLT*

It is good not to criticize. For a critical nature is rooted in Satan the Devil, a liar from the beginning! He is the accuser of the brethren. Do not be his tool to disseminate his propaganda. He is the one who drives a wedge among families, churches and nations! Again, I say, do not be a tool in his filthy hand!

When you criticize someone else you are doing so against one made in the image of God. Even if it is a true accusation, keep it to yourself and submit it to God, who has the power to change the other person, if he or she is willing. You cannot change anyone's heart or mind!

Get rid of a critical spirit, for when you accuse another, you are condemning yourself, and that sin must be repented of. Do yourself a favor and your fellowman and rid yourself of this heinous sin! Amen and amen

*Look here, you people that say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit." How do you know what will happen tomorrow? For your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while and then it's gone. What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that." Otherwise you will be boasting about your own plans, and all such boasting is evil. James 4:13-16 NLT*

There is a lot to be said about planning your time. Time is of the essence. Time is not to be squandered; it is given to you by your heavenly Father. Read *Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*.

So you see, my little children, there is a time for everything, so plan accordingly. However, ask the Lord to guide your planning in order to make it fruitful and productive. Ask the Lord first if he wants you to do what you're planning. He cannot bless your plans if he is not the focal point of your plans.

In everything you plan, do it with enthusiasm and zest. Do it with all your might. Be a good steward in all God has given you. Have a merry heart and sing unto the Lord as you go about your daily business. Amen and amen

*Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it. James 4:17 NLT*

1 *John 3:4* defines sin. "Those who sin are opposed to the law of God, for all sin opposes the law of God." This is grammar school education in the school of the Spirit. It is primary to the knowledge of sin in your lives, my little children.

Do not frustrate your Creator, but strive to please him in everything you do. Now we know that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. However, with the Holy Spirit as your guide, you have the help that you so desperately need. Listen for that still small voice to guide you in any problem you may encounter.

Once you know what sin is, you are also accountable. This means you need to repent quickly when you sin. That is why Christ died so that you might live a righteous life. He, who knew no sin, became sin for us, so that we might be free from the law of sin and death. For the law brings death, but the grace of our Lord brings life.

No man could live a perfect life, but Christ's perfect life imputed righteousness to all who believe on the name of Jesus the Christ, the Son of the living God. Amen and amen

*Look here, you rich people, weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you. Your wealth is rotting away, and your fine clothes are moth eaten rags. Your gold and silver have become worthless. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh in hell. (Or will eat your flesh like fire.) This treasure you have accumulated will stand as evidence against you on the Day of Judgment. For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The wages you have held back cry against you. The cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. You have spent your years on earth in luxury, satisfying your every whim. Now your hearts are nice and fat, ready for the slaughter. You have condemned and killed good people who had no power to defend themselves against you.*

*James 5:1-6 NLT*

Yes, the Lord your God sees the inequities of the rich man on the face of the earth. There are two categories of rich men—those that care about their fellowman, and those who are self-indulgent. I take note of every part of this in a man or woman. Wealth is not to be squandered on ungodly pursuits.

I hear the cries of the poor and will provide their every need, when they make me their focus. I am their Creator and they need my help. But they must ask my aid. They must look to me as their Source. Amen and amen

*Dear brothers and sisters, you must be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who eagerly look for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They patiently wait for the precious harvest to ripen. You too must be patient, and take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near. James 5:7-8 NLT*

Do not be deceived my little children, for whom Christ died, whatever you sow, must of necessity, be reaped. If you sow destruction, you will reap destruction. If you sow peace, you will reap peace. I counsel you to sow good things every day of your lives!

I use the farmer as an analogy, because he depends on the rain from his Father in heaven, and is dependant on him for his livelihood. Many farmers develop a relationship with me because of this very fact. They are close to the soil and the earth; they see my hand in the miracle of the seed. It drops into the earth, and the rain and soil produce the plant. Sunshine also comes into the scene. The farmer waits patiently, he cannot rush the process, although he uses modern methods of hybrids and herbicides and pesticides, he still must wait.

You too must be patient.

Patient: capable of waiting—able to endure waiting, delay or provocation, without becoming annoyed or upset. Capable of persevering—able to persevere calmly, especially when faced with difficulties—enduring, tolerant, unwearied, uncomplaining, longsuffering, and serene. Taken from Encarta Dictionary.

Amen and amen

*Don't grumble about each other, my brothers and sisters, or God will judge you. For look! The great judge is coming. He is standing at the door! James 5:9 NLT*

To grumble against your family, friends or co-workers is a serious offense, and will bring judgment against you! It is time that my people understand this and applies the principle of love and not resentment. Hostility breeds more hostility and you are sliding back in your walk with God.

When you point the finger at someone else, you are also giving notice that you have a problem of unforgiveness! If you do not forgive, what happens? That's right! God will not forgive you, unless you repent.

So submit your problem to me and let me work out a solution. I have the answer already! Be patient and I will remedy the situation. It will be for your ultimate good.

Bring your requests to God, your Heavenly Father, and I will handle it! Do not grab your fellow servant by the neck and demand payment. Only the Lord your God can remedy the situation! Amen and amen

*For examples of patience in suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. Job is an example of a man who endured patiently. From his experience we see how the Lord's plan finally ended in good, for he is full of tenderness and mercy. James 5:10-11 NLT*

Job is an example for all time. He did not curse God for his miserable plight, as his wife suggested. He knew the same God who gave him wealth, was the same God in the shadow of death. However, he did bemoan his circumstances. He wondered why, after living a righteous life, he was subjected to such a time as he suffered. "No trial is joyous, but grievous---but afterward you will reap joy." Job was there to see the "afterward."

And so, we see that when we endure, ultimately we receive a crown of life! Suffering brought Christ the cross, but afterward the first born of many brethren! He did not suffer in vain. There was a great plan and purpose for it. And so it is with you, my little children, for whom Christ hung on the cross and died. He made the ultimate sacrifice for your freedom from the law of sin and death! He was the second Adam that conquered sin, death and the grave!

Suffering for the cause of your Lord and Savior brings an eternal reward! Amen and amen.

*But most of all, my brothers and sisters, never take an oath, by heaven or earth or anything else. Just say a simple yes or no, so that you will not sin or be condemned for it. James 5:12 NLT*

In today's world there are many oaths and cursing the name of God, using his sacred name in an uncouth, foul-mouth way. Some children are born into a home where cursing and using God's name in vain is a common everyday occurrence. Thus, they carry on the tradition.

What is my response? It is a sad state of affairs, when their very Creator is referred to in such a manner. Yet even this heinous crime is forgiven! For I love the sinner and welcome him with open arms when he comes to me and repents sincerely, from the heart.

This is a habit that is hard to break and he or she needs the aid of the Holy Spirit to break the cycle of taking the name of the Lord their God in vain.

See that you use my name reverently and prayerfully. Pray for the Lord's name to be used rightly, calling on him every day in sincerity and truth! Amen and amen.

*Are any among you suffering? They should keep on praying about it. And those who have reason to be thankful should continually sing praises to the Lord. James 5:13 NLT*

There are many benefits to be gained in the midst of suffering.

Suffering: pain: physical or psychological pain and distress; painful experience; anguish, distress, misery, agony, torment, affliction—Encarta Dictionary.

While suffering is painful, there is a refining process taking place.

Refine: to produce a purer form of something by removing the impurities from it or to become pure through such a process, to improve something through small changes that make it more effective or more subtle, to make somebody or something more cultured or elegant by eliminating less acceptable habits or tastes, or become more cultured in this way.

So you see that suffering makes my child more effective, and habits become more acceptable for growth.

Suffering is not pleasant, but your Lord and Savior learned obedience by the things he suffered. Can my children do any less? A crown of glory awaits you, my child. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad! Amen and amen.

*Are there any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. And their prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make them well. And anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. James 5:14-15 NLT*

There is much to be said about sickness in the body of Christ. There is no magic formula, or the saying of certain phrases. All the healing scriptures are yes and amen. There are those who get immediate healing and those who receive healing a little each day. My child, you must receive your healing the way your heavenly Father sees fit for your circumstance.

You see, your Father wants a whole person when he begins the healing process. He is molding and fashioning you to arrive as a finished product. All things are taken into account, for you are unique. No other person on the face of this planet has your characteristics. So I continue to fashion you into a highly polished jewel that will be beautiful forever!

So lift up the feeble hands and walk in the path I have chosen for you alone. It is our unique journey and we do not want to miss a moment of it! Amen and amen

*Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results. James 5:16 NLT*

Your power comes from the Lord who made the heavens and the earth. Power to pray comes from your Almighty Father in heaven. He gave you the breath of your body and the power to live day by day. Praise him for you are fearfully and wonderfully made!

Other religions and ideologies are man made and have no power. They must delude the people and cause them to stumble. They do not want their Maker, so they devise out of their own minds a “god” that they can worship. Such is the case for all who fashion a god in their own minds. There are no exceptions!

So I ask you to pray for these wayward souls. They are in gross darkness, and think they are “enlightened.” The god of this world is leading them to perdition. Pray for your fellow Christians as well, for they are dealing with the everyday vicissitudes of life, and some are under great duress.

Your prayers are powerful when you are earnest and sincere. Do not neglect this vital tool. You are blessed; now pray for this knowledge of God to cover the earth! Amen and amen.

*Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for the next three and a half years! Then he prayed for rain, and down it poured. The grass grew green, and the crops began to grow again. James 5:17-18 NLT*

Humanly speaking, mankind is very limited in his power. However with Christ in you, all things are possible. When a man teams up with his Creator, then and only then, can miraculous wonders occur!

Miracles are all around you if you have eyes to see. Do not take for granted a flower or a tree. All creation sings of miracles—the sky and all its majesty, sprinkled with stars and celestial splendor.

Think also of the body of man, everyone a unique creation. No two have the same fingerprints, or the same DNA. The Lord your God makes no duplicates, even in twins that look identical, the substance of their bodies are different!

Elijah was human, this is true, but mighty miracles took place in his life because he was linked to his Maker. It is no different today. When you are teamed up with God, your Father, you will see miracles! Amen and amen

*My dear brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought back again, you can be sure that the one who brings that person back will save that sinner from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins. James 5:19-20 NLT*

The person who finds the pearl of great price is happy, confident and exceedingly blessed! That is why he surrenders all to follow his Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God.

Having found that pearl, and later “pawning” it, to go back into slavery and sin is indeed a tragedy! That is why my people, who are called by my name, are to pray for them to return to the Shepherd and Bishop of their soul. Many of these backslidden sheep are scattered on the lost hills of perdition.

To win them back to the Lord is a true story of search and rescue. So make a list of those lost sheep and pray for them to return to the fold. They may not listen to you, but may listen to the Holy Spirit calling them in the nighttime stillness, away from the din and clatter of this world's system.

As a result of your prayers, they are rescued, and you are rewarded for your diligent prayers! Amen and amen.