

The Epistle of James

15

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

Today we continue our study of James, this time dissection the book into four major sections:

- **1:1-27**
- **2:1-26**
- **3:1-4:12**
- **4:13-5:20**

As you read, you will note that James packs a powerful punch. He is extremely practical in his approach to the issues of his readers, to the point that **James** reads like a compilation of pithy proverbs. For this reason, the epistle of **James** has often been called "The Proverbs of the New Testament."

The first section of **James** can be divided into two subsections. Read each subsection, answering for yourself the questions associated with it.

Read James 1:1-18

- What did James say to consider pure joy? (**1:2**).
- What is the end goal of the testing of your faith? (**1:3-4**).
- If anyone lacks wisdom, what should he do? (**1:5-8**).
- What attitude does James instruct the poor and the rich to have? (**1:9-11**).
- Why is the man who perseveres under trial blessed? (**1:12**).
- How is a person tempted? (**1:13-15**).
- What does James warn us not to be deceived about? (**1:13-18**).

Read James 1:19-27

- What does James tell his readers to take note of? (**1:19-21**).
- What does James warn his readers not to do? (**1:22**).
- Who will be blessed in what he does? (**1:23-25**).
- Who deceives himself? (**1:26**).
- What kind of religion does God consider pure and faultless? (**1:27**).

Memory Verse

If any of you lacks wisdom,
he should ask God, who gives generously
to all without finding fault, and it
will be given to him.

James 1:5

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!