



BAND of BROTHERS

SUMMER SERIES 2026 – WEEK 6 HANDOUT

WEEK 6 – Faith That Perseveres

Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return... You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.

– James 5:7, 8 NLT

- **Humility is a gift, not a good work**

- James ended his last section with a challenge

Draw near to God...Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. – James 4:8, 10 ESV

- It is a poverty of spirit
 - Meekness, lowliness, and absence of self

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” – Matthew 5:3 ESV

- Paul refers to it as “humility”

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. – Colossians 3:12 ESV

humility – *tapeinophrosynē* – lowliness of mind

- a deep sense of one's (moral) littleness
- more than just a humble opinion

“Being poor in spirit means that only those who admit to an absolute bankruptcy of spiritual worth will inherit eternal life.” – gotquestions.org/Bible-humility

- ~ Humbling oneself is an **attitude**, not an **action**
- ~ It's a condition of the **heart**, not the **head**

~ It's something we **acknowledge**, not **accomplish**

*Nothing in my hands I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress,
Helpless, look to Thee for grace*

– Rock of Ages, Augustus M. Toplady, 1776

- Good works are a **byproduct** of humility
 - Our **undeservedness** produces...
 - ...compassion ...kindness
 - ...mercy ...love
 - ...selflessness ...peace
 - ...sacrifice ...patience

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. – James 4:10-11 ESV

- Why do we “speak evil” of one another?
 - To exalt ourselves
- Why do we “judge” one another?
 - To make ourselves look better
- What “law” is broken when we judge others?

“You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.” – Leviticus 19:15 ESV

- Sound familiar?

My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others?...doesn't this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives? – James 2:1, 4 NLT

- We are pretending to be God...
 - ...determining what is right or wrong
 - ...assessing someone else's worthiness
 - ...and exalting ourselves at their expense

There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor? – James 4:12 ESV

- It was Jesus who warned...
 - “Judge not, that you be not judged.”* – Matthew 7:1 ESV

- **The pride of presumption – 4:13-17**
 - **Self-exaltation** through **self-reliance**

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit." – James 4:13 ESV

- God is not opposed to **planning**
 - But He strongly objects to **autonomy**
 - The quality or state of being **self-directed**
 - Making your will a higher priority than God's
 - Acting as if God does not exist

Only fools say in their hearts, "There is no God." They are corrupt, and their actions are evil; not one of them does good! – Psalm 14:1 NLT

- Making plans without God is **idolatry**
- It is the worship of **self**
- Jesus warned against this

"A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.' Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods.'

"But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?'

"Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God." – Luke 12:20-21 NLT

Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. — James 4:15-16 ESV

boast – *alazoneia* – pride

- an insolent and empty assurance, which trusts in its own power and resources

*So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him **it is sin**. – James 4:17 ESV*

- **The subtle snare of self-sufficiency – 5:1-6**
 - James now addresses **the rich**
 - But his message is **universal**
 - This isn't an indictment of **capitalism**
 - Or an endorsement of **socialism**
 - It's a condemnation of **materialism**

“A preoccupation with or stress upon material rather than spiritual things.”
– Merriam-Webster Dictionary

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 are corroded. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire. This corroded treasure you have hoarded will testify against you on the day of judgment. For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The cries of those who harvest your fields have reached the ears of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. You have spent your years on earth in luxury, satisfying your every desire. You have fattened yourselves for the day of slaughter. You have condemned and killed innocent people, who do not resist you. – James 5:1-6 NLT

- James uses hyperbolic language
 - He is over-exaggerating his point
 - He is not condemning wealth
 - He is exposing the danger it poses
 - Jesus did the same thing

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.” – Matthew 6:24 NASB

- Our **resources** can easily **replace** God
 - We learn to...**rely on them**
 - ...**place our hope in them**
 - ...**get our joy from them**
 - ...**base our worth on them**
 - ...**enjoy peace because of them**
 - Possessions aren’t **sinful**, but can be a **temptation**
 - Wealth can make us **self-sufficient**
 - Materialism can produce **discontentment**
 - Physical affluence can lead to **spiritual apathy**
 - Moses warned the Israelites about this

“Beware that in your plenty you do not forget the LORD your God and disobey his commands, regulations, and decrees that I am giving you today. For when you have become full and prosperous and have built fine homes to live in, and when your flocks and herds have become very large and your silver and gold have multiplied along with everything else, be careful! Do not become proud at that time and forget the LORD your God...” – Deuteronomy 8:11-14 NLT

- James accuses these people of **murder**

- They boast of their **righteousness**...
...while practicing **unrighteousness**
- They were **extravagant** in their lifestyles...
...but also **excessive** in their heartlessness
- They were robbing people of **life**...
...by denying them...a living wage – vs 4
...food for their families – vs 4
...and their dignity – vs 4
- Who is James addressing? The rich
“I’m not rich...I’m just comfortable!”
...I’m blessed!”
...I’m well-resourced!”
...I’ve just been frugal!”
- What does James tell these people?
 - Bear the fruit of repentance (Matthew 3:8)
 - Be patient and stand firm – vs 8
 - Until the Lord returns
 - Because His coming is near
 - Live with that reality in mind
By not grumbling against one another! – vs 9
By refusing to judge one another! – vs 9
By persevering with one another! – vs 11
By not swearing falsely to one another! – vs 12
By praying for one another! – vs 13

*Are any of you suffering hardships? **You should pray.** Are any of you happy? **You should sing praises.** Are any of you sick? **You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord.***
– James 5:13-14 NLT

- **Prayer versus partiality**

- James calls them to change their perspective
 - **Rejoice** rather than **rail** against trials
 - **Repent** instead of **rebel**
 - Seek **reconciliation** at all costs
 - Pursue the **restoration** of any who stray

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

- This all began with the reality of trials
 - But his focus has been on **faithfulness**

...the fruit of **faith**

So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone —especially to those in the family of faith. – Galatians 6:9-10 NLT

- **Discussion questions**

What has been your greatest takeaway from this study in James?

Why is it so vital that we not view James as a self-help book? What is the danger of making our pursuit of fruit a replacement for faith?

Close by praying that each of you would have undivided faith.