

Lesson 3 – James 1:12-27

Introduction

The lesson this week will complete James chapter 1. As you move through these verses, remember the context of the entire book of James, and allow the message of the Holy Spirit to touch your spirit. Did you learn a memory verse from last week? Keep that fresh on your mind as you proceed and consider what verse or passage God would have you learn this week, to allow the word to be treasured in your heart.

Day 1 - James 1:12-15

1. Open today’s time in the word by thanking the Lord that the Holy Spirit will counsel you with God’s truth, and help you to grow in the knowledge and grace of your Lord Jesus Christ. Read James 1 and then consider these **observation questions** for today’s passage.

- What is promised to the person who endures temptation?

- James taught concerning *temptation* in 1:12-15. You might already have made a list of what you learned about this in the comprehensive chapter study on **Day 1**, page 15. If you did make a list, please take the time to read through the list, but if you did not do that yet, please list the truths about being *tempted* here.

- What truths regarding God is taught in James 1:12-15?

- What tempts *each person* according to James?

- Draw a picture or a diagram that explains James 1:14 and 15.

2. Please spend some time examining these **word studies** for some of the key words used for this passage.

Strong’s # and Transliteration:	Definition from Strong’s unless written <i>in italics</i>:	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
3107 Greek makarios	Blessed , supremely blest, by extension fortunate, well off, happy (happier).	Matthew 5:3-11

5278 Greek hupomenei from hupomeno	Endures , to stay under, behind, remain, to undergo, bear trials, have fortitude, persevere, abide, patient (ly), suffer	2 Timothy 2:10,12
3986 Greek peirasmon from peirasmos	Temptation , a putting to proof, by experiment (of good), or experience of evil	James 1:3
1384 Greek dokimos	Passed the test ISV, been approved NAS, tried KJV, acceptable	2 Timothy 2:15
4735 Greek stephanon	Crown , a prize in public games, or a symbol of honor	1 Corinthians 9:22-27
3985 Greek peirazo	Tempted , to test, scrutinize, entice, discipline, assay, examine, go about, prove, try	Hebrews 2:18 Hebrews 4:15
551 Greek apeirastos from peirazo	Tempted (in phrase cannot be tempted), untried, untemptable, not to be tempted	James 1:13 is the only place this word is used in the New Testament.
2556 Greek kakon from kakos	Evil , worthless, intrinsically such; depraved, bad, harm, ill, wicked	James 3:8 Hebrews 5:14
1939 Greek epithumias	Desire ISV, lust KJV, a longing, esp. for what is forbidden	Titus 2:11-13
1828 Greek exelkomenos from exelko	Lured ISV, drawn out KJV, to drag forth, to entice, draw away	James 1:14 is the only place this word is used in the New Testament.
1185 Greek delezazomenos from delezao	Trapped ISV, enticed KJV, to entrap, delude, allure, beguile	Only used three times in the New Testament. 2 Peter 2:14, 18
266 Greek hamartia	Sin , offense, sinful. <i>Missing the true goal or scope of life; an offense in relation to God.</i> ¹	Romans 6:23

¹ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study New Testament*, Chattanooga, AMG Publishers, 1991, p. 884.

3. Look back at the definition of the word blessed on page 29. In the Scripture reference given, Christ’s sermon from Matthew 5:3-11 gave a new perspective of the word blessed, as the promises He made to His disciples were not what would be expected. The followers of Christ were anticipating peace and prosperity in life. Could you put James 1:12 into the same terminology as the wording in the Sermon on the Mount?

Blessed are those who _____ for they _____

4. When Christians use the word *blessing*, it often means that *good* from a human perspective has come upon someone. Please read James 1:2-4 and then James 1:12 and think about how these verses relate. Will you agree with this truth from God Almighty?

5. The Bible contains some clear teaching about temptation. Genesis 22:1 says that *God tested Abraham*, in the NASB, meaning God proved Abraham’s faith. The Hebrew word for *tested* is *nissah*, which means to “put to the test.” This verse in the KJV of the Old Testament might add confusion to this teaching, because the KJV used the word *tempted*, that *God tempted Abraham*.

A powerful account of temptation is given to us in Luke 4, following Jesus’ baptism. How did Christ face the temptation of the devil?

How does the truth of James 1:13 align with these accounts of Genesis 22 and Luke 4:1-13?

What is the message for you to obey in these passages?	What do you need to do to equip yourself for this?

6. God doesn’t say we will not be tempted, but He does make a wonderful promise to His children in 1 Corinthians 10:13. This passage shared the struggles of the people of Israel, so read the verse in its context, beginning at least with 1 Corinthians 10:11. What instruction and exhortation does Paul give to the people of Corinth regarding what they (and you) are to do concerning temptation?

7. Read 1 Corinthians 10:11 and then read James 1:14 and think about how these two verses relate to one another.

8. Can you recall a time when you were lured and trapped by your own desire? What desires do you have that tempt you?

9. Paul wrote about the protection provided for believers in Ephesians 6:10-18. The goal of this portion of the lesson will be to help you apply the truths concerning the armor of God in any battle you might face. Please begin by listing the part of the armor, and then note what it is associated with. Then for application, think about the scheme the enemy has used or will use against you that would cause you to need that piece of armor. Think about what each piece of the armor will protect you from. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to your remembrance times in the past when you or someone you know dealt with this same issue.

We all have desires that tempt us, but how will the armor of God make a difference the next time your desire lures and seeks to entrap you?

The piece of armor and the spiritual association it has:	What will this part of the armor protect you from? This would be a word that stands in opposition to the spiritual association in the 1st column.	What specific verses from Scripture can you proclaim when you are battling with each of these desires? Look in your concordance for the help you need.

10. Think of a trial you have gone through in your past when you were clearly tested. Did you allow that experience to mature you in your faith? How can you allow trials to mature you in your faith? What will you determine to do regarding this issue from James 1:2-15?

Day 2 – James 1:16-18

1. Please open by thanking God and praising Him that He has given you the Holy Spirit, and that Christ promised that the Holy Spirit would guide believers into the truth and be your source of comfort. Allow this passage to comfort you when you are feeling stress or you feel uncertain about who you are in regard to your place in this world. Thank the Lord that He will give you His perspective, and help you see the difference in God’s perspective and the world’s. Thank the Lord that you can share His joy as you study in His word. Please read James 1:16-18 and consider these **observation questions**.

- James 1:16 by itself could be a timely admonition for all believers, but in its context in James chapter 1, how does 1:16 relate to the verses before it and the verses after it?

- Note the way James addressed the recipients in James 1:16. What does this tell you about the relationship between James and those who were to receive this letter?

- How does James 1:17 and 18 describe God?

- What does James 1:18 say about your relationship to God?

- How were we made His children?

2. Please spend some time examining these **word studies** for some of the key words used for this passage.

Strong’s # and Transliteration:	Definition from Strong’s unless written <i>in italics</i>:	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
4105 Greek planasthe from planao	Deceived , err KJV, go astray, seduce, wander, be out of the way	James 5:19 1 John 1:8
18 Greek agathe	Generous ISV, good NAS, benefit, good things, well	James 3:17
1394 Greek dosis	Act of giving ISV, thing bestowed NAS, a giving (<i>of a gift</i>)	Only used two places in the New Testament. James 1:17 and Philippians 4:17
5046 Greek teleion	Perfect , complete, in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character	James 1:4 (the word full in the ISV) James 1:25

1434 Greek dorema	Gift , a bestowment, (<i>the gift itself</i>)	Used only two times in the New Testament. James 1:17 and Romans 5:16
2570 Greek kalos	Good , beautiful, valuable, virtuous (for appearance or use, and thus distinguished from agathos (18), which is properly intrinsic)	James 4:17
509 Greek anothēn	From above , from the first, again, from the beginning. <i>A rabbinical expression for saying YHWH, (Yahweh), rather than uttering the name of the Lord.</i>	Used for the phrase born from above meaning born spiritually by God and born again, in John 3. James 3:17
5457 Greek photon	Heavenly lights ISV, lights NAS, luminousness, fire. <i>This is the only place in Scripture where God is described as “the Father who made the heavenly lights.”</i>	1 John 1:5
3883 Greek parallage	Inconsistency ISV, variation NAS, variableness	James 1:17 is the only place this word is used in the New Testament.
616 Greek apokueo	Made us His children ISV, brought forth NAS, begat KJV, to breed forth, to generate	James 1:18 is the only place this word is used in the New Testament.
3056 Greek logo	Word , something said, including the thought or a topic, also reasoning. Used also in James 1:21	This expression <i>word of truth</i> is used four other times in the New Testament. 2 Corinthians 6:7 Ephesians 1:13 (how is this expression used here?).
225 Greek aletheias	Truth , true, truly, verity	Colossians 1:5 (word of truth) 2 Timothy 2:15 (word of truth)
536 Greek aparchēn	Most important ISV, first fruits NAS, the beginning of sacrifice. <i>Refers to believers in general consecrated to God.</i> ²	Romans 8:18-25 (in :23)

3. Look at how God is described in this passage of James 1:17 and 18.

What has God done?	What aspect of His character is shown here?

4. Please read James 1:13,14 and note what humans can give birth to as contrasted to what God gave birth to. What does this say to you?

5. The first chapter of Ephesians reinforces James’ writing of James 1:17,18. If you can, please take the time to reflect on the truth of Ephesians 1, as it will encourage your spirit.

What gifts have we received from God?	How did Paul describe our relationship to God?
Ephesians 1	Ephesians 1

6. Please take some time to think about the message of James 1:16-18. Read James 1:2-4 and then today’s passage. Are the trials you go through a gift from God? How could you look at trials and see them as good?

Can you think of a way you have been deceived concerning your Father God in the last week? Please close with a time of quiet reflection before the Lord, asking Him to search your heart to help you understand any way that you have been deceived. Ask God to help you have the discernment you need to recognize deceit before it settles into your spirit.

Day 3 – James 1:19-21

1. Open by thanking the Lord for His promise that the Holy Spirit would be your helper, no matter the circumstance, you will receive help when you humble yourself and ask for help. Read today’s passage aloud and allow the words to be a part of your opening prayer before the Lord. First consider these **observation questions**.

- What is James saying that you as a believer need to *understand*?

- What explanation does James give concerning *anger*?

- What are you to *rid yourself of* or put aside, according to James 1:21?

² Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study New Testament*, Chattanooga, AGM Publishers, 1991, p. 889.

- What is the attitude James described you are to have in your *spirit* and for what reason?

2. Please spend some time examining these **word studies** for some of the key words used for this passage.

Strong's # and Transliteration:	Definition from Strong's unless written <i>in italics</i>:	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
1492 Greek eido	Understand ISV, know NAS, be aware. (The word is only implied in the KJV text.)	Romans 8:28
3709 Greek orgen and orge	Anger , wrath KJV, desire, violent passion, indignation, vengeance, wrath	Ephesians 4:31
2716 Greek ergazetai	Produce , achieve, work	Romans 2:9,10 (practices doing)
1343 Greek dikaiosunen	Righteousness , equity, (of character or act), justification	James 2:23
659 Greek apothemenoi	Rid ISV, putting aside NAS, to put away, cast off	Hebrews 12:1
4507 Greek ruparia	Impure , dirtiness, filthiness	James 1:21 is the only place this word is used in the New Testament.
2549 Greek kakias	Evil ISV, wickedness NAS, trouble, malice,	2 Peter 2:16
4240 Greek prauteti	Gentle ISV, humility NAS, mildness, meekness	Used only three times in the New Testament. James 1:21 and 3:13 1 Peter 3:15
1209 Greek dexasthe	Welcome ISV, receive NAS, KJV, accept, or take	2 Thessalonians 2:10
1721 Greek emphutos	Implanted ISV and NAS, engrafted KJV	James 1:21 is the only place this word is used in the New Testament.
4982 Greek sosai from sozo	Save , to deliver or protect, heal, preserve, do well, be or make whole	Romans 5:9
5590 Greek psuchas	Soul , breath, spirit, heart, life, mind, <i>oneself</i>	1 Thessalonians 2:8 (lives)

3. As you go back to the passage for the day, please read James 1:19-21 and notice how James addressed the recipients in James 1:19. What attitude does James express in 1:19 and to whom is this command directed?

4. Note the elements of communication and behavior that are contrasted in 1:19-21.

According to James 1:19, everyone should be:	Why, according to James 1:20?	What will you need to do so that you can follow the command of James 1:19?

5. Sometimes a good way to understand something is to determine what would be the opposite of the statement. If you didn't follow the command of James 1:19-21, how would your behavior and communication be described?

The behavior of disobedience to James 1:19:	In disobedience you might hold on to:

6. Take a look at some Scripture concerning this issue of anger and a biblical remedy prescribed for all who believe.

What does anger reveal about oneself?	What restrains anger?	How do the words of Christ agree with James 1:21?
Ecclesiastes 7:9	Proverbs 17:27, 28	Matthew 11:28-30
Matthew 12:33-37	Ephesians 4:26, 27, 29 (associated with righteous anger)	

7. Please read James 1:20 again and think about what does *produce God's righteousness*. Many have written about the meaning of this phrase and there are many viewpoints. There is a verse in the Greek Old Testament, the Septuagint, where both of the words used in James 1:20 are also used together. Please read Psalms 15:1-3 and see what is associated with producing or working righteousness as it was recorded and taught to the believers in the first century.

8. What is the cause of anger in your own life and what is produced by your anger?

The cause of anger in your life?	What is produced by your anger?

9. How do you rid yourself of *everything impure and every expression of wickedness*?

10. According to James 1:18 and 21, what difference has *the word* made in your life and what is to be your attitude toward *the word* now?

11. Remember the parable Christ taught concerning the sower and the soils? What did this parable say was the responsibility of the one who hears the word? Read Mark 4:3-20, especially 4:20.

How does this parable agree with James 1:18 and 21?

12. Another translation of the end of James 1:21 could be, “with gentleness receive the implanted word because it is able to save your soul.” Some have described sanctification as the act of God that sets apart the believer in Christ. One’s salvation can be looked at from different points of time, as “I was saved, I am being saved, and I will be saved (on the day of judgment, when all people will stand before Almighty God and Christ Jesus and not have to face eternal separation from them). When you read James 1:21, what sense of time is represented? What are you supposed to do and when?

What are you to do?	When is that to be done?	Why is that to be done?

13. Think back to James 1:2-18 and the problems that have already been addressed in this chapter. In the past when you were going through a trial or some kind of problem, did you ask a friend to speak God’s truth to you and to remind you of the sovereignty of God? Sometimes we are so human that we long for human sympathy, but what we need is to acknowledge and accept God’s sovereignty, and His grace and His mercy and His provision.

What does God want you to do with the truths in James 1 that you have studied so far?

Does your spirit desire to produce God’s righteousness?
possible in your life?

How will that be

Is there a verse God would want you to memorize as you continue through this week of study?

Day 4 – James 1:22-25

1. James used many commands in his epistle, and another one appears in James 1:22. Is the command of James 1:22 the desire of your heart? As you go through this book, the heart of God toward His people is being revealed. Please join with the Lord in His plan for your life and open your time with Him in prayer. Now please consider the following **observation questions**.

- What are believers to *keep on* doing?
- What is associated with being a *hearer* of the word according to James 1:22?
- James taught by using a literary device called a simile that is often introduced by the word *like*. What is the *hearer of the word* like?
- What does this passage say concerning the *doer of the word and the hearer*?

The description of the doer and the promise made to them:	The description of the hearer:
James 1:25	James 1:22-24

2. Please spend some time examining these **word studies** for some of the key words used for this passage.

Strong's # and Transliteration:	Definition from Strong's unless written <i>in italics</i>	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
4163 Greek poietai	Doer , a performer, <i>also used in Greek literature as a poet. In Luke 11:28, this word is translated as "obey" in ISV, "observe" in NAS, and "keep" in KJV.</i>	James 1:22,23,25 Romans 2:13
202 Greek akroatai	Hearer , (from the root of the word for listen)	James 1:22,23,25 Romans 2:13
3884 Greek	Deceive , delude, beguile, err	Colossians 2:4

paralogizomeni	KJV. <i>Different word from James 1:16.</i>	
5046 Greek teleion	Perfect , complete, in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character	James 1:4 (the word full in the ISV) James 1:25
3551 Greek nomos	Law , regulation, specifically of Moses also of the gospel	Matthew 5:17
1657 Greek eleutherias	Freedom , liberty	James 2:12 Galatians 5:1
3107 Greek makarios	Blessed , supremely blest, by extension fortunate, well off, happy (happier).	Look back at James 1:12 Matthew 5:3-11

3. Please allow other Scriptures to provide a “commentary” on James 1:22-25. Look at the teaching of Christ relating to being a *hearer of the word* or a *doer of the word* in Matthew 7:24-27, Luke 6:46-49 and Luke 11:28.

What is someone “like” who hears the words of Jesus and acts on them?	What is the promise made to those who <i>hear and obey</i> the word?

4. While our enemy Satan is called the deceiver, who does James say deceives the one who only hears?

5. Of the five senses, James refers to the *hearer* in this passage, and then he introduces another sense in 1:24 and 25. What is the result of the two individual’s vision according to James?

One studies himself carefully and then:	The other looks and then:

6. What does James mean by *the perfect law of freedom*? Please look at these Scriptures before answering that question.

Psalm 19:7-9	John 8:31, 32	Galatians 3:22-24	Galatians 6:2

7. How can you be someone who remembers God’s word? Read the words of David who declared His commitment in Psalm 119:11 as well as Psalm 139:23, 24.

Will you make a commitment to being a *doer of the word* and *not merely a hearer*?

Day 5 – James 1:26,27

1. Today you will finish James 1 by studying the last two verses, and thinking about the chapter as a whole. Begin in prayer concerning your relationship to the Almighty God and your Savior Jesus Christ, that the relationship you have would be deep and life sustaining, that you might keep on being filled with the Spirit as you continue with this study. Please consider the following **observation questions**.

- James ends the chapter with a contrast you can consider. What are the elements involved in James’ description of religion?

Religion that is worthless:	Religion that is pure and stainless:

- According to James, who sees the nature of your religion?

2. Please spend some time examining these **word studies** for some of the key words used for this passage.

Strong’s # and Transliteration:	Definition from Strong’s unless written <i>in italics</i> :	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
2357 Greek threskos	Religious , ceremonious in worship, pious	James 1:26 is the only place this word is used in the New Testament.
5468 Greek chalinagogn	Bridle , to be a bit leader, to curb	One only two times in the New Testament. James 1:26 and James 3:2
538 Greek apaton	Deceives , to cheat, delude	Used only three times in the New Testament. Ephesians 5:6 and 1 Timothy 2:14
3152 Greek mataios	Worthless , vain, empty, profitless, an idol, vanity	1 Peter 1:18
2356 Greek threskeia	Religion , ceremonial observance, worshipping	Colossians 2:18
2513 Greek kathara	Pure , clean, clear	Hebrews 10:22
283 Greek	Stainless ISV, undefiled NAS,	1 Peter 1:4

amiantos	unsoiled, pure	
2347 Greek thlipsei	Suffering ISV, distress NAS, affliction, anguish, burdened, persecution, tribulation	Acts 14:22
784 Greek aspilon	Unstained ISV, unstained NAS, unspotted KJV, unspoiled	2 Peter 3:14

3. If you were to ask five people their definition of religion, you would perhaps receive five different opinions. How would you describe your religion? What verse or verses from the Bible would you use to share your faith?

When asked that question, two people answered with the following Scripture. Please meditate on these truths and read them over several times. Review James 1:22-25 and examine what these Scriptures say a believer is to do.

Micah 6:8	Matthew 22:37-40

What would you add to these two passages that would describe *your religion*?

Will you stop and ask God for the opportunity to share your faith with someone this week?

4. In James 1:19, one’s manner of communication is focused on, and in 1:26 the bridling of the tongue is mentioned. Since James 3 and 4 also teaches about the tongue and one’s speech, the lesson today will not look at that topic, but will in a later lesson. Today you will look at the other part of a religion that is worthless, *deceiving* oneself. The Greek text used the word heart, *kardia, one who deceives his own heart*. Look at these Scripture references to see other teaching concerning the heart of mankind. Begin by writing out Romans 10:8-10, as this passage relates to your salvation. What role does the heart have in your salvation? Have you ever memorized these verses? This would be a good passage to share with someone concerning Christianity.

What is in one’s heart?	What promise does God give to His children?	What will help believers to not be deceived?
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Proverbs 12:20	Jeremiah 31:33	Hebrews 4:12,13
Matthew 15:15-20		

5. King David’s prayer of Psalm 139:23, 24 could be a part of spending time with the Lord everyday. Many are not comfortable praying that prayer, because they might not want to deal with the answer they receive. Will you trust God with your life, every aspect of it, and allow Him to show you a hidden area of your heart that you have been ignoring? The gift of God’s grace to you is of value beyond description. Is what you give back to God *worthless*, or can you say that you love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength? Remember Christ also said that His followers were to love their neighbor as themselves. This brings us to the next description of religion based on the writing of James. Read again James 1:26,27

Old Testament teaching as well as the writings of the ancient rabbis talked about taking care of widows and orphans. The use of the phrase “widows and orphans” provides a picture of anyone in need, and the children of Israel were taught to be sensitive to the needs of others.

How does God look at widows and orphans?	How is this teaching a part of our faith?
Psalm 68:5	Isaiah 1:16,17

6. What is the responsibility Christians have regarding living in the world? Read James 1:12 and 21 to see what is to be done to follow the last command of James 1:27.

Will you speak up and stand for what is pure and stainless? Will you keep yourself unstained by the world?

7. Please read James 1:12-27 and reflect back on the message that the Holy Spirit directed James to share with the recipients. Don’t forget to pray, asking God for His wisdom to see His truths in this portion of His word. Referring back at your sheet of the **instructions, exhortations, admonitions, and warnings** that you listed for James 1, and using some of the **key words** that are actually in the passage, will you consider a theme for each of the sections you studied this week? Try to limit this theme to no more than five words, and then list these here as well as on page 15 of the Appendix, in the section for Chapter 1 Summary Statements.

James 1:12-15	James 1:16-18	James 1:19-21

James 1:22-25	James 1:26,27

The themes for James 1:1-11 were discussed on page 28 of Lesson 2, so now you have jotted down the key ideas from each of the sections in James 1. This will show “the flow” of the author’s writing, and will help you understand the book as a whole. Another important part of inductive Bible study involves meditating on the book and thinking about the content of the book in its entirety. This step is difficult for many, especially people who are detail oriented individuals, as this step requires thinking of the BIG PICTURE of the book of James, in order to understand the purpose of the author. At the end of each lesson that finishes the study of each chapter, you will be asked to stop and meditate on the chapter to determine the themes of the chapter, and then at the end of the entire study, you will be asked to consider the theme of the book of James. Turn to that chart in the Appendix, on page 15 and reflect on the section themes you have written in the box on the left for James 1. Will you now ask God to help you write a title for the chapter using the words from the text? It might be a specific theme from one section of the chapter summarizes the chapter, and the other sections come under that theme. God delights to have us seek to understand His Word. He has promised to help us and to give us wisdom, and this will help you understand the book as a whole as you precede through the rest of James.

8. Close today by reading James 1 and asking God for His wisdom to show you what He would want you to do with His word. How does God want to make this passage real within your heart?

Focus your mind on the Lord’s love and His goodness and mercy. Have you made a commitment to hide God’s word in your heart, that you might not sin against Him? Did you memorize a verse this week? Maybe you could write it out here as another review.

Is there a song that would help you worship the Lord in closing? Here’s Scripture set to music that would help you declare your faith and commitment to the Lord.

Micah 6:8

He has shown thee, O man, what is good and what the Lord requires of thee; But to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.

“Micah 6:8,” Bob Sklar, c 1986 Maranatha! Music, ARR, ICS, CCLI #110220.

