**James Chapter 1**

 Maybe it’s because of who the Author is, but this ‘General Epistle’ is one of the most profound and significant documents about ‘Spiritual Growth & Maturity’ in the entire Bible. Written specifically to ‘Jewish Christians’ who were “scattered abroad” due to the severe persecution of Christians in Jerusalem, James wrote this letter in a form that has caused many Theologians to refer to this as “a Book of Proverbs in the New Testament”. This letter serves as a ‘Practical Guide’ to Christians that admonishes ‘us’ to grow in our faith. It also serves as a rebuttal to Paul’s proclamation that “works without faith ‘cannot justify’ you” {Gal. 2:16}; by stating emphatically that “Faith without works is dead”. {Chapter 2:14-18} James calls on Christians to leave their comfort zone and by faith do something to the Glory of the Lord.

1. Read vs 1. Which James is the author of this epistle? Whom did the writer serve?

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2. To whom is he writing? What do you know about the people to whom he is writing?

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3. Why do you believe he targeted that particular audience?

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4. Read vs 2. What is ‘divers temptations’? What does James tell the people/us to do when they/we

 ‘fall into ‘divers temptations’?

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5. What are some ‘divers temptations’ that Christians face today? What would be different if you

 were to consider trials to be ‘pure joy’?

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6. Read vss. 3-4. What does the “trying of your faith” produce? When patience (perseverance-

 NIV) has completed her work, what will happen?

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7. Respond with your words what you think about the faith- patience connection.

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8. Read vs. 5. What is it that God can give to people? Who is it that should ask? How will He give

 it? (Hint: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.)

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9. What does ‘upbraideth not’ mean? When do you think most people ask for this gift of grace?

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10. Read vss. 6-8. When we ask GOD for anything, how should we ask? What does it mean to

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11. What did he compare a ‘wavering person’ to? What do you think this comparison means?

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12. What did he say a wavering person should expect? Explain in your own words what it means to

 be ‘double-minded’?

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13. The opposite of ‘double-minded’ is ‘single-minded’ find a couple of Bible verses that give this

 instruction. What did James say is the danger of being ‘double-minded’?

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14. Read vss. 9-11. What should the poor person do? What will God do for that person?

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15. What should the rich person be glad about? Why is that?

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16. What happens to flowers? In what way is a rich person like a wild flower?

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17. Read vss. 12-15. In James’ description of the relational dynamics between ‘temptation and sin’,

 what did he say about those who ‘endures’ temptation? When will they receive that reward?

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18. What does it mean to ‘endure temptation’?

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19. Where does temptation ‘not’ come from? Why not?

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20. Where does temptation come from? What is the order of events from temptation to death?

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21. Read vss. 16-17. What warning is given? What is it that we must ‘not make a mistake’ about?

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22. What kind of ‘Gifts’ come from GOD?

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23. When referring to the gifts that GOD gives, what Title did James ascribe to GOD? What do you

 learn in vs 17 about differences between God and the sun, moon and stars?

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24. Read vs. 18. What did James say was the reason why GOD has ‘begotten us’? How did GOD

 do it?

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25. What was GOD’S intention or purpose for doing so?

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26. Read vss. 19-20. What did James say we should ‘be swift’ to do? What two things should we

 ‘be slow’ to do? Why?

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27. What does our wrath/anger accomplish?

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28. Read vs. 21. What should we ‘lay aside/apart’? What is ‘superfluity of naughtiness’?

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29. What should we ‘receive’ instead? How should we receive it?

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30. What does ‘engrafted word’ mean? What is it able to do?

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31. Read vss. 22-25. Concerning our ‘engagement’ with The Word of GOD, what did James say

 we should be? What should we ‘not’ be?

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32. How can we ‘deceive ourselves’? To whom did James compare a person who is a hearer

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33. What did James say would happen to those who ‘continue…’ in The Word?

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34. Read vss. 26-27. How did James describe a person who practices ‘vain religion’? What

 connection do the things that you say have with being \*religious?

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35. According to James, what is ‘pure religion’? What other verse(s) of scripture gives this ‘pure

 religion’ instruction?

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36. Who will benefit if you have true religion? How would someone know that you have true

 religion?

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