

## JAMES 2

1. Who was James?

-James was the half brother of the Lord Jesus, one of the sons of Joseph and Mary (Mt 13:55).

2. As Christians, is it certain that we will have problems?

-Yes.

3. Do our problems come from God?

-No.

-Our problems come from the sins of the world, our flesh, and Satan.

4. Why should Christians rejoice when we are having problems?

-Because we know that God is using our problems to strengthen our faith and to make our faith complete.

5. Why do Christians not ask God more often to show them His will for them?

-Because we are lazy.

-Because we don't think to ask Him.

-Because we think that God will not answer.

-Because we think we know better than God.

-There are many more reasons, yet God wants us to ask Him for wisdom and guidance.

6. How do we as Christians stand when we are tested?

-Understand that God has allowed the test.

-Understand that God is with us in the test.

-Ask God to be our strength during the test.

7. Does God tempt people?

-No. God tempts no one.

8. Does James 1:6 teach us that if we simply believe, God will give us everything we ask for?

-No.

-All that we ask for must be according to the will of God.

9. How are people tempted?

-We are tempted when an evil desire comes to our thinking, and instead of asking God to take it away, we continue to allow it in our hearts and minds.

10. What did Christ do when He was tempted by Satan?

-He answered with the Word of God.

11. Is there a difference between human anger and anger from God?

-Yes.

-Human anger is sin, but anger from God is not sin.

12. Can Christians have anger from God and not sin?

-Yes, but we must allow the anger to come from Christ in us, and not from our own flesh.

13. How is the Word of God like a mirror?

-It shows us our heart.

Let's read James 2:1

1-My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism.

-What is favoritism?

-To honor one person more than the other.

-In this world, people give more honor to rich people or to people who have a good job.

-God, however, is not like people.

-Before God, all people are the same—in need of Christ.

-Before the cross, all Christians are the same—saved by the blood of Christ.

-If God does not show favoritism, should we honor one Christian over another?

-No.

-Here is an example from the Word of God:

Let's read James 2:2-4

2-Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in.

3-If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet,"

4-have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

-People show more honor to a rich man than a poor man, but God does not.

-For Christians, God shows the same honor to all people.

-We must also show the same honor to all people.

-What does James 2:4 say if we do not show the same honor to all people?

-That we have become a judge with evil thoughts.

Let's read James 2:5-7

5-Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

6-But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court?

7-Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

-Many people who are rich do not think that they need God.

-Many people who are rich have no problem using Christians to gain what they want.

-Many people who are rich have no problem blaspheming the name of God.

-This is why the Word of God tells us to be careful with rich people.

-Can you be rich and believe in God?

-Yes, but it is difficult.

-God has chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith.

-Does this mean that all poor people believe in Christ?

-No.

-Rich or poor, people must understand that they have sinned against God, and ask God to save them.

-The Lord Jesus said this in Matthew 5:3: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

-It is those who are poor in spirit who cry out to God, asking God to save them.

Let's read James 2:8-9

8-If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right.

9-But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

-If we love others as our God loves others, it will be more difficult to show favoritism, for favoritism is a sin.

Let's read James 2:8-9

10-For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

-Some people think that they are good people because they have kept most of the laws of God. Is this true?

-No.

-Some people think that if they obey most of the laws of God, then God must accept them. Is this true?

-No.

-No one can keep all of the laws of God because all people are born into sin.

-Even if we have kept all of the laws, and only broken one law, this verse teaches us that we are still guilty.

Let's read James 2:11

11-For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

-Some people say that they have not killed anyone, and therefore, they are not too bad.

-When people compare themselves to other people, will they see their sin?

-No.

-Why not?

-Because we are all sinners, and we are all the same.

-When do people really see their sin?

-When they compare themselves with God.

-Our God is extremely holy.

-Before God, all sin is sin,

-Before God, even that which people say are "small sins" merits death.

-If every sin would not merit death, then our God would not be holy.

-Because our God is extremely holy, however, every sin merits death.

Let's read James 2:12-13

12-Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom,

13-because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

-What is the law that gives freedom?

-For the Christian, it is the freedom to obey God because we are no longer under the power of sin.

-The non-Christian, however, is not free for they are still under the law which requires death for sin.

-Here, the non-Christian is called someone "who has not been merciful."

-This means that non-Christians are seen by God as not being merciful because of their lack of faith in Christ.

-God has shown all of us mercy by dying on the cross for our sins.

-People, however, judge others and show no mercy.

-These are people who do not understand the mercy of God.

-God would rather show all people mercy than to judge them.

-As the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 5:7: “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

Let's read James 2:14

14-What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?

-This verse has not been properly understood by many people.

-Like most of the New Testament, this verse is written to Christians and is not teaching us that we must work in order to be saved.

-This verse is teaching us that because we have been saved, we should work to help others.

-A belief in God which does not work to help others is a false belief in God.

-A faith in God which does not work to help others is not a saving faith.

-If God has saved us, then we will want to work to help others to believe in God.

-If God has saved us from sin, death, and Satan, then we will want to work to help others to be saved from sin, death, and Satan.

-The Word of God now gives us an example:

Let's read James 2:15-17

15-Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food.

16-If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?

17-In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

-Because God has saved us, we must help others who are in need so that they can be saved.

-Here is an illustration:

-In a village, a hut is on fire, and there is a man who is inside the hut.

-A neighbor comes by, runs into the hut, and brings the man outside, saving him from the fire.

-Sometime later, the man who was saved from the fire goes to another village, and sees another hut on fire.

-Shall not the man who was first saved from the fire run into the other hut, and save those inside?

-Yes.

-If we say that we believe in God, but do not help others to believe in God, then the Word of God says that our faith is dead.

Let's read James 2:18-19

18-But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

19-You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

-Some people say that faith and works are separate, but they are not.

-Faith in God is on the inside, and works to help others to believe in God is on the outside.

-It is the heart that drives the flesh.

-It is the heart that controls the flesh.

-If the heart is not running, the flesh goes nowhere.

-If the heart is working, the flesh is also working.

Let's read James 2:20-22, 24, 26

20-You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?

21-Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?

22-You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.

24-You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

26-As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

-Because Abraham believed in God, he obeyed God.

-Abraham believed God with his heart, and his flesh or his works followed his heart.

-Here is an illustration:

-When a horse pulls a wagon of grain, the horse must go first, and the wagon must follow.

-In the illustration, the horse is our faith or belief in Christ, and the wagon is our work.

-It is our belief in Christ which must go first, and our works will follow.