

JAMES 5

1. Why do Christians fight and quarrel?
-Because of our desires that battle within us.
2. Where do these desires that battle within us come from?
-From our flesh which is our old life that we had before Christ saved us from ourselves.
3. Why can the flesh never be satisfied?
-Because the things of this world will only satisfy for a short time, and then, the flesh will want something else.
4. How do we live without having the desires of the flesh?
-If we allow God in us to be completely God in our lives, there will be no room for the flesh.
5. Who alone can completely satisfy us?
-Only God.
6. How can we be spiritually adulterous?
-By honoring the world or the flesh more than God.
-By honoring ourselves or others more than God.
7. If we are friends with the world, how does this make us an enemy of God?
-Because the world does not believe in God.

8. When we humble ourselves before God, what does God do for us?
-He lifts us up.

9. Why should we not judge other Christians?
-Because judging the life of other Christians is God's work and not our work.

Let's read James 5:1-6

1-Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you.

2-Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes.

3-Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.

4-Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.

5-You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.

6-You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.

-Why is the Word of God talking so strongly against rich people?

-Because many rich people believe in their money more than they believe in God.

-Because the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil (1 Tim 6:10).

-If you are rich, it is more difficult to humble yourself before God.

-Can rich people take their money to heaven?

-No.

-What is the only thing that we can take to heaven?

-That which we have done for the Lord Jesus Christ.

-If we live our lives only for this world, our life will be a waste.

Let's read James 5:7-9

7-Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.

8-You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

9-Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

-The Word of God teaches us to be patient because the return of the Lord Jesus is near.

-“The judge is standing at the door” also means that the return of the Lord Jesus is near.

-How is the return of the Lord Jesus near?

-This means that Christ could return today, and that we should live knowing that He could return even today.

Let's read James 5:10-11

10-Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

11-As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

-We should be patient in suffering.

-Job was patient in suffering, and at the end of his suffering, God gave to Job twice as much as he owned before his suffering.

-After his suffering, God gave Job 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 oxen, and 1,000 donkeys plus ten more children.

-Does this mean that God will give us sheep, camels, oxen, donkeys, and children after we suffer?

-No.

-Job's suffering and that which God gave him after he suffered is a picture of life.

-While we live here on the earth, we will suffer.

-If we believe in Christ, however, God will give us in heaven an eternal reward which will be greater than sheep, camels, oxen, and donkeys.

Let's read James 5:12

12-Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple “Yes” or “No.” Otherwise you will be condemned.

-To swear means to take an oath.

-An oath is a promise that someone will do something.

-Before Christ, people needed to take an oath because many people were not honest.

-The problem was that after people became Christians, they brought this into the Church.

-The Bible does not forbid taking an oath.

-In the Old Testament, Abraham, Isaac, David, and Israel took oaths, promising to do something.

-Also in the Old Testament, when an animal was lost, or a woman was accused of marital infidelity, God required Israel to take an oath to show the truth.

-Again in the Old Testament, God Himself would take an oath, not because He would break His promise, but to show us all that He would keep His promise.

-When God says “As I live” in many places in the Old Testament, He is swearing by Himself that what He is saying is true and will happen.

-In the New Testament, however, in Matthew 5, Jesus spoke out against oaths:

33-“Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’

34-But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne;

35-or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King.

36-And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black.

37-All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.”

-If Christians are honest, is an oath necessary?
-No.

-Honest Christians have no need of an oath.

-Is all we need to say is “Yes” or “No,” and “anything beyond this comes from the evil one.”

Let’s read James 5:13-15

13-Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.

14-Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.

15-And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.

-These verses have not been properly understood by many people.

-People think that if you are sick and the elders pray for you and anoint you with oil, then you will become well again.

-The Word of God never promises physical healing.

-This is because all people are children of Adam and Eve and because of sin, our bodies will die.

-This is also because the Lord Jesus may want to take us to heaven.

-It is God’s decision when people die.

-To understand these verses, we should remember that the book of James teaches us about trials and suffering.

-The book of James begins with this:

-“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds” (James 1:2).

-Notice that this verse does not say “If you face trials,” but rather, “whenever you face trials.”

-Additionally, most of this chapter teaches us that we, like Job, will have trials and suffering.

-It is not, however, our physical response to trials and suffering which is being taught.

-Rather, it is our spiritual response to trials and suffering which is being taught.

-Our spiritual response should be to pray.

-Because we have trials and suffering, the Word of God is encouraging us to pray.

-In fact, most of our prayers should be for our spiritual health rather than our physical health.

-Before God, our spiritual health is more important than our physical health.

-Even if our physical health is suffering, our spiritual health should be strong in Christ.

-Even though Paul and Silas were chained in jail in Philippi, they sang songs of praise to God into the night.

-Even though Christ suffered on the cross, He asked the Father to forgive the people, and committed His soul to God.

Let's read James 5:16a

16-Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

-All Christians sin.

-When we sin, however, we must ask God to forgive us of our sin.

-The word "forgive" in the Greek language means to "send away."

-When we ask God to forgive us of our sin, we are asking God to send our sin to the cross of Christ.

-When our sin arrives at the cross of Christ, it is the blood of Christ which "forgives" or pays for our sin.

-And our sin is no more, having been paid by the death of Christ on the cross.

-We confess our sin to Christ and to one another that we may be healed.

-A sin to our soul may be like a wound to our body.

-If the wound is not treated, it will become worse and cause more pain.

-If our sins are not confessed, they will continue to hurt us, and may become worse.

-When others sin greatly against us, it may be difficult for us to forgive them.

-Even if we as Christians have difficulty forgiving others, Christ in us can do this.

-We must simply ask Christ in us to forgive others, and the forgiveness of Christ will result in our forgiveness of others.

James 5:16b-18

16-The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

17-Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

18-Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

-How are we as Christians righteous?

-Our righteousness is from Christ alone.

-Why did Elijah pray that it would not rain?

-Because God directed him to do so.

-Why did Elijah pray for rain after three and a half years?

-Because God directed him to do so.

-The God of Elijah is the same God in all Christians.

-And the rain coming down after a three and a half year drought is a picture of the power of prayer.

-This is a picture of God showering His blessings on our souls which can become dry.

-When we are totally abandoned to God, however, and allow God to have His perfect will in our lives, our

prayers are powerful and effective.

-Why are our prayers powerful and effective?

-Because it is God who is praying through us, and His will shall be done.

James 5:19-20

19-My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back,

20-remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

-Living in this world, it is easy to wander from the truth of Christ.

-This is why Christians need one another so that we can encourage one another.

-When we help others to overcome sin, we are helping ourselves as well to overcome sin.

-More than encouraging Christians not to sin, our God has saved us so that He would reach out to the unsaved through us.

-God has saved us that He might save others through us.