



LESSON 4 - JAMES (STUDENT)

1. What changes did you make as a result of applying last week's lesson?
2. Read James 1:12-18. Now write a sentence about what 12-18 is saying. Then comment on how it relates to the previous two paragraphs.

Paragraph 1 vv., 3-8	
Paragraph 2 vv. 9-11	
Paragraph 3 vv. 12-18	

3. According to verse 12, who is being described and what is he doing?
4. Look up the word "blessed" (*makarios-G3107*) in a Strong's Concordance or Dictionary. What characterizes this man's inner quality of life despite his external circumstances? When will the full "blessedness" be realized (Psalm 16:11; John 17:3; Revelation 3:7-13)?
5. The adjective for "approved" is *dokimos* in verse 12. Back in ancient times, it was used of the testing of coins and metals to establish their genuineness.

These coins were soft and many people shaved them closely. In fact many laws were passed back then to stop that practice. As a result there were honorable money changers who put only *genuine* full weighted money into circulation. These men were referred to as "dokimos" which means they were approved. Similarly, once the believer's faith has been tested and shown to be genuine or approved (*dokimos*) under trial, what does God promise will be his future reward?

6. Is James saying that those who successfully endure their trials earn eternal life? Is eternal life earned through our human effort? What does God's Word say about that (John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8-9)?

7. Read Revelation 3:7-13. Who are the ones who receive the crown? What did they do?

8. Of what does this future crown consist, when will it be given, and who has the Lord promised it to (1 Peter 5:4, 2 Timothy 4:8, Hebrews 2:9; Revelation 2:10)?

9. Sometimes when believers are subjected to hard trials, they are inclined to blame God or others. This tendency dates back to the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:12). But what is the true source of our temptations according to verses 13-14 (Proverbs 19:3)?

10. Describe the progression from temptation to sin. What is the process? What natural phenomenon is it likened to?

A. Each one is tempted when he is _____ away and _____ by his own _____,

B. Then when _____ has _____,

C. It gives birth to _____,

D. When it is full-grown, it brings forth _____,

11. Desires (lust) are a natural make-up of the human experience. But when do our desires (lusts) become evil (Genesis 3:6; Deuteronomy 5:21; Job 21:14; Proverbs 6:25; 21:10; 24:1; Micah 7:3)?

12. Read Mark 7:21-23. What does Jesus say defiles a person?

13. What do we need to guard with all diligence and why (Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 6:21; Luke 6:45)?

14. What are 5 practical ways you can guard your heart (Job 22:27; Psalm 1; 32:6; 109:4; 119:10-12; Proverbs 15:8; Luke 10:42; Ephesians 4:15-16; 1 Hebrews 3:12-14; Timothy 2:15)?

1. Do not neglect:

2. Do not neglect:

3. Do not neglect:

4. Do not neglect:

5. Do not neglect:

15. What affectionate warning falls on the heels of verse 15? How does it connect with the preceding verses (vv. 13-15)?

16. What is the theme of God's character according to verses 17-18?

17. One of the oldest tricks in Satan's book is to convince God's children that He is somehow holding out on them and He does not really care and love them. Satan convinced Eve of this in the garden (Gen. 3:1-7) and he tried to tempt Jesus in the same way while in the desert (Matt 4:1-11). Understand that once you start to doubt God's goodness, you will divert your attention to what the world (Satan) has to offer.

So how does *knowing* and *believing* that God is good all of the time help you to guard against temptation (Gen. 39:8-9; Proverbs 10:22; Luke 12:1-34 to formulate an answer)?

Since God is good all of the time and He does not change, I _____

_____.

18. What remarkable good gift was bestowed upon every believer that becomes a witness to God's great goodness according to verse 18?

19. What do we learn about ourselves as believers and what does that mean (Ezekiel 44:29-30; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23; Rev. 14:4)?

APPLICATION:

20. As you experience trials, are you persevering? Do you view God as working all things together for your good? Are you fostering a mindset that has a lofty view of God?

A. How can you remind yourself that God is good and not get distracted by the deceitfulness of the world?

B. What unbiblical thinking and behavior are you seeing in yourself?

C. What changes will you make as a result of what you learned this lesson?

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Make use of this helpful tool (below) for counseling yourself and battling your sin.

A * N * T * H * E * M

Avoid: Learn to be more self aware. What causes the temptation (Rom 13:14)?

No: Learn to say no to self! You have to fight for it. How are you going to say no? Verbally tell yourself no! (Titus 2:11-12)

Turn: Learn to turn to Christ. When you are tempted? Think of what you sin cost the Lord. Think about the crucifixion of the Lord.

Hold Fast: Persevere. Choose to obey. Do you have accountability partners?

Enjoy the Lord: How can you turn your enjoyments into worship? (1 Tim. 2:16).

Move: into useful service to God and others. Love God and love others.

--Acrostic adapted from Dr. John Piper