

Review of the Book of James Bill Reeves Jr.

After studying the book of James in a Sunday school class, this is a review of James. We are looking back at what we discovered about the book of James. You will find it helpful to review the various trials that were examined in the book of James; see the chart in the study.

Well, welcome to our study today in James. This review will review what we've learned and how we've understood the book. For anybody who is looking at this and hasn't seen the series, keep in mind that if you pay attention to the paragraphs in James, read them carefully, and note your questions and observations, you'll come a long way in understanding this book.

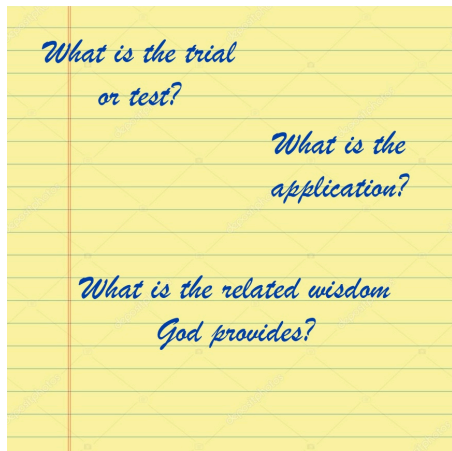
Remember, James, like anything in the Bible, was actually meant to be

understood. And I believe we can understand any part of the Bible by paying attention. And sometimes we do careful study, and the Lord will give us light to it. But I believe it's a book to be understood. And James particularly becomes that book for us. And again, I'll show you some insights into how we opened the book up in the review.

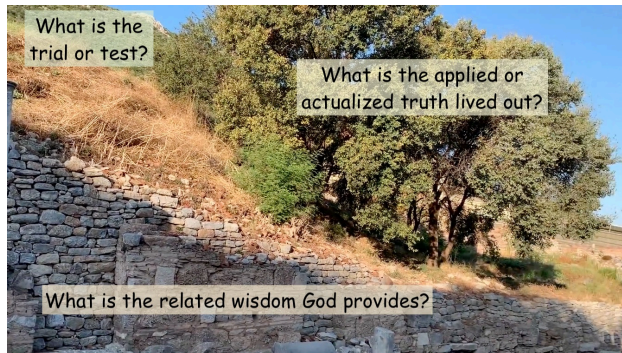
So with every trial that we had, we looked at the idea of what is the trial or the test? What's the related wisdom that comes with that? Usually, we see in James that we have a test, and then he writes to us God's wisdom about it. Then, we develop the principle that he gives to be applied, actualized, and lived out in our lives.

So I chose a picture of yours truly and put the three things. So, by the door, I've identified the test, and in the shirt, I have shared God's wisdom. I tried to condense the words a little bit to help me crystallize what wisdom is. And then what does God want us to actually live out?

Okay, now you may prefer a different way of looking at it or not, but you know, a



different graphic besides yours truly. You can take any really wonderful picture that you have. You can put the three areas in the exact locations, doing the same for you. So, at the top left, you have the trial or test. At the bottom, what's the related wisdom God provides. And then in the top right, what's the applied



At Ephesus

or actualized truth to be lived out. So, when you think about putting a picture here, it depends on what type of word processor you have or picture art you can do.

But I can take a picture, for example, and I can hit the markup, okay, here. And I can add the text boxes. And, of course, I've learned to colorize the background and take a little bit of the color away so the picture shines

through. And I tried to make it so you could see it clearly. Now, the image itself here that you see is from Ephesus. You're in Ephesus here and looking up the hillside. And there you'll see a lovely tree on that hill, which makes a nice picture. And I had nice shadows to put the text down at the bottom. And, like I said, I was off to the races.

So, however you make your chart, even on a piece of paper where you write your note, what is the test? Down at the bottom, you write what wisdom God gives. And then what does God want me to live out? When you practice that and do that, you begin to actualize the truth in your life. And that's called a thumbs-up.

Okay. And that's what we've learned to do with every trial we have experienced. Now, I went back to, you know, the beginning, and I went back to the first initial impression I had of James, and I used Irving Jensen's chart on this one. I reconstructed it using my word or not-word page formatting from the Apple word processor. Basically, this gave me an idea of what James was about at the top and the bottom, where I wrote down the things going on in the book of James.

Then, in the gray part in the middle, I went to work, read each paragraph, and gave a title to each paragraph. Now, there is some test in each of those paragraphs. Some of it's related to what was before and what was after

James Living Out One's Faith Jensen details line 2 & 4 Reeves

chapter 1				Chapter 2				Chapter 3		Chapter 4		Chapter 5																	
Testing & Trials Worked out				Faith works				Word and deed		Gods will not sin		Live God's way he is coming																	
Motives for Works				The place of Works						Judgment of works		Outreach of Works																	
1 writer and reader	2 Trials & testings have purpose	9 True worth of rich & poor	12 temptation's process	16 salvation is from God	19 quick to hear, not so with anger	21 put aside sin received the word	22 be doers of the word	26 real religion (practice)	1 don't show favoritism to the rich	5 value the poor (especially of faith)	8 Love your neighbor	14 Faith works (so practical)	18 Faith revealed by works	25 Sinners faith revealed by works	26 Faith without works is dead	1 teachers be careful in speech	5b the tongue reveals sin in us	13 be wise and show good conduct	1 where does conflict come from	7 submit to God	11 do not speak evil of others	13 Live in the present-God's will	17 not doing good is sin	1 the rich will weep for their sin	7 be patient the Lord is coming	9 Don't grumble in testing endure	12 speak plainly no rash oaths	13 sickness and prayer	19 Ministry of restoration
Trials and temptations.		Word and works		Faith and works ...				Tongue		Wars		Future		Others.															
Faith in Testings		Fulfillment		Favoritism		Fallacy		Fountain		Fightings		Faith &		the future. Faith & Fellowship															
Principles Involved				Practices for the present						Prizes in The future		A constructive Conclusions (present)																	

immediately, so the test was bigger in terms of scriptures. But I went through it and came up with various trials.

In James chapter one, verse two says, “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience, but let that patience have its perfect result that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

Well, so what were the various trials? Okay, what were the various trials? Here, I came up with 22 trials of various trials. Throughout the book, you can see that these are the things that we were struggling with regarding possible trials. And when you look at it a little closer, you see that’s where I’m at. You know, these are very common. And so I came up with 22. Are there more than 22 trials in James? I think so, especially if you carefully analyze the trials; you’ll probably come up with some others. Okay. And maybe if you’re doing the study, you might word them differently according to what God is showing you. But nevertheless, these are the various trials that we have in James. And it’s a good starting point.

Obviously, in the light sky blue, we have the things dealing with prayer. And I put patience there, you know, because that’s one of the things that’s an ongoing work that God wants to actualize in our life, the staying power to stay

Various trials in James



As you read the text observe the colors

with the trial, through the trial, through the test, to not give up, but be willing to see it through the other side. And when you have victory over the trial or test, you know, you've applied what God wants. And so you want to have the patience and the staying power.

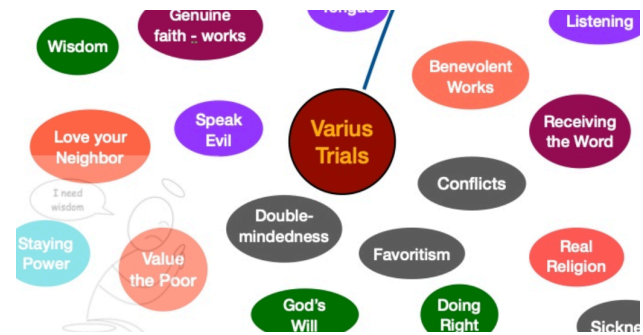
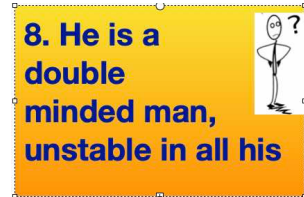
And then, you know, I looked at some of the spiritual core values we need, which come off in this book. And I have them in kind of a plum color, where we're looking at true worth, the true worth of a person and of ourselves, genuine faith, a genuine life before God, a genuine faith that produces fruit or works, you know, a saving faith, where God delivers us. And we, of course, experience it, and we're going to experience it. We don't lose our understanding of salvation, where God's saved us from past sins, and then he's keeping us and delivering us from the various trials that we have now. And he will ideally save us as we go to be with God in heaven. And all of it's by grace, all of it's by faith. It's not by works. We are never saved by works but works follow genuine faith.

Okay, works follow genuine faith. And they will happen, you know, they will happen. And, of course, it's saying that they will happen also underscores our individual differences. And that certainly, you know, comes into play. What we talk about, what we say, the tongue and the speech, the speaking evil, and the counterpart of listening. I've done it all in a bright purple. How do they come together for us?

In the gray-black, you know, dealing with the dark things of temptation, conflict, sickness, favoritism. On the one hand, we want to be genuine people of faith. But on the other side is that double-minded person seen in all of these trials, you know, so you either have the person of faith or the double-minded person. And that's ever before us. And you know, so we need to understand the idea that we're, when we're double-minded, we're between God and the world, between God and sin, between God and Satan. And you know, that type of thing.

And, of course, we get into the act of benevolence. The works that really James talks about primarily, I hope you caught that by now, are benevolent works done on God's behalf for others. These benevolent works practically deal with how we love our neighbor. They value people with low incomes. They demonstrate a true devotion to God or a real religion, a genuine faith. And they're concerned about the needs of others, whether they're orphans or widows or the poor, disabled, or any human weakness that comes into our experience. We are in the ministry of helping relieve suffering. And we are in the ministry of helping to restore people back to their faith. And that's, you know, that's our heart. You know, that's our heart. And that's where I painted it reddish to represent that type of thing.

And, of course, we're to grow. We're to succeed. And I have three things there in green. We'll grow in wisdom and God's will, actualizing it in our life. And we're to have a pattern of doing right. Whatever we know is right, and if we don't do it, that becomes a sin.



So there you have the trials, as I've seen them. I tried to color code it to give a little bit of organization to it. And yet, the trials don't come at us very organized. They come at us, you know, from all different directions. So that's sort of what I hope this chart shows.

Okay. And it's all under the various trials that we see in James at the beginning of the book. Okay. So, we have two practical people before us in our lives. First verse five, "Let anyone who lacks wisdom, let him ask of God who gives liberally." And that suggests the man of faith, the person of faith, the woman of faith. That person, you know, is going to trust God through their trials, temptations, troubles, and heartaches. They're going to look to the Lord.



But then, on the other side of the coin, we have that



double-minded person who is completely confused about the sources of temptation, the sources of trials, why, where, and how they are coming. That double-minded person thinks about the values of the world or God. And they're in a no-man-zone or no-person zone you would have experienced in World War I. The worst place to be was in that middle part, trying to go to get to the other side, and, you know, everything was against you. So that's where the double-minded person is. We don't want to be that double-minded person. So we want to be a person like it says in James 2.18, "But some will say, You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works." We want to demonstrate the genuineness of our faith by allowing the works that follow our salvation to come out okay.

And so when we think about faith and works, of course, the struggle

between those things disappears when we consider, all right, when we consider that James is like part of the application, parts of Paul's writings. In Romans, you've got the doctrinal part in verses 1 to 8 and 9 to 11. And

Seeing James practical section fits other practical scriptures

Bible Book	Doctrinal in Particular positional truth	Christianity in Practice
Romans	1-8 How God makes a sinner Righteous 9-11 God's plan for His people Jews	12-16 practical application of that Christ life more insight into God' enablement
Ephesians	1-3 Sit - position "in Christ" eternal salvation	4-6 walk, stand - again enablement developed
Colossians	1, 2 Position "in Christ"	3, 4 Christian living self, family, work - enablement developed.
James	Little doctrine	Practical devoted service tested & approved James has it's own theme but is agreement in practice enablement seen in submitting to God and prayer



then you have that practical part in 12 to 16. In Ephesians, you have the doctrinal part talking about the position in Christ, our salvation. And you have the practical part of walking and standing, where the enablement of God in your life is developed in very practical areas. In Colossians, you can certainly say the

Eph. 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

same thing. Colossians and Ephesians are very similar. There, you'll see that the Christian life, working out in family work, church, and everything, is being developed and actualized. Well, James, we don't have a lot of doctrine, but we have a lot of practical. And the practical agree with Paul when he says that following salvation, there are works. And I think both Paul and James are in agreement because we're looking at the outcome of salvation.

And the outcome of salvation is definitely going to be demonstrated by our works.

So we do want to pray, and we do want to, you know, with each trial, ask God for wisdom, but make sure that whether this is in the book of Psalms or it's in some other area of the Bible, that when God is helping you with your trials, look for the wisdom that comes with what God has shown you. And you'll see things that allow you to put into practice to see an outcome here. That's, of course, what we want to do.

And in it, like we're reminded by Paul, we want to win the race. We want to win in the Christian life. We want to be that person of faith and not double-minded. And by doing that, we can really gain a lot of success. So, really, again, let me say that the book of James can be understood. We have tackled it and found many things God wants us to work through.

I'm sure that we looked at more things than you thought were there, but we immediately saw the pattern of the truth in James 1, verses 2 to 5. And we've illustrated that pattern repeatedly with, you know, the various trials that come up in life. So whatever trial you're facing, you know, especially as we get older, many of those trials tend to leak into the area of being sick. Well, God gave wisdom there. We looked at that last week.

So I hope that you trust the Lord, and through the trial, you will go through a period of time. Through the tests, you will go through a period of time that you learn to hang in there as you go through it and patiently try to apply what God gives you. And I think you'll see as you look back, "Man, the Lord helped me

through that, and I could do so much by trusting in the Lord. And he got me through that trial. And I actually was able to do it successfully.” You know, rather than a defeated life, you will see a victorious life, which will be amazing. So that’s, I think, the kind of thing that James really encourages. So until next time, may God bless and thank you again for following these studies. Amen. Amen.