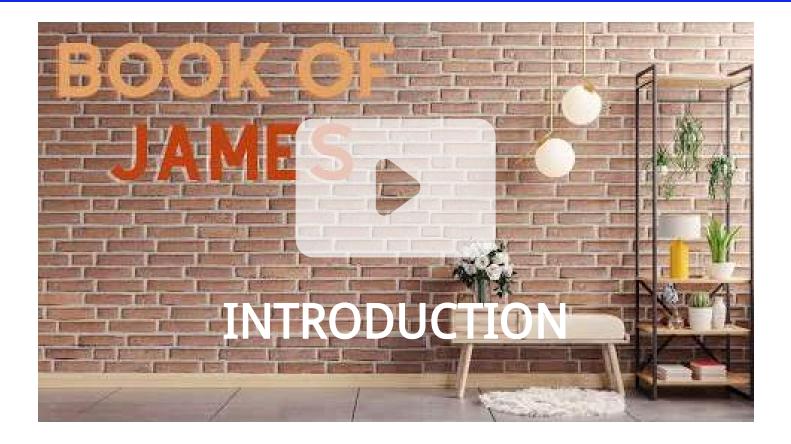
WORKMAN BIBLE STUDY SERIES:

# **BOOK OF JAMES**

#### THE GUIDE BOOK FOR LIVING OUT OUR FAITH

**Pastor Dennis Davis** 

#### BOOK OF JAMES: LIVING OUT OUR FAITH



# HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

Each week follows a pattern to help guide you in your study of James



The week begins with an introduction to the themes of the week. Throughout each week you'll find scripture readings, devotions, and images to help inspire your thoughts and guide your time.



Each week includes five days of scripture reading along with a short devotional thought and three-five questions to help you process what you've read.



The sixth day contains no reading but should be used to soak up what you've read over the past 5 days and to seek God for wisdom and insight into the text. Don't skip out on using this day!



The seventh day each week offers a list of questions that apply to the passage. You will also start to see call out boxes which are used to provide additional insight and clarity for the passage as well as how it relates to the whole Bible.

#### Introduction

We live in a world overflowing with information and short on application. People know Bible verses, hear sermons, attend Bible studies—but still wrestle with living out the faith in a practical, everyday way. That's exactly why the book of James matters right now. James doesn't waste time with lofty theory. He walks straight into our behavior, our speech, our responses to trials, and how we treat others.

This epistle confronts the believer who's tempted to coast on religious language but not spiritual obedience. It challenges the churchgoer who says, "I have faith," yet whose life lacks the fruit to prove it. In a time when the Church is called to shine in a confused and compromised culture, James speaks directly to our hearts. In short, James teaches us what mature, lived-out faith looks like.

# WHO WROTE THE BOOK OF JAMES

The author identifies himself simply as "James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ" (James 1:1). But which James is this?

Most scholars agree the author is James, the half-brother of Jesus, also called James the Just. Though he was not initially a believer (John 7:5), James came to faith after the resurrection when Jesus appeared to him personally (1 Corinthians 15:7). He later became a key leader in the Jerusalem church, known for his wisdom, piety, and pastoral heart (see Acts 15, Galatians 2:9).

His humility is striking. Instead of identifying as "the brother of Jesus," he calls himself a doulos—a bondservant or slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. That tells us something right away: this isn't about James' credentials; it's about Christ's authority.

# WHO WAS THE ORIGINAL AUDIENCE?

James 1:1 says the letter is written "To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad."

This refers to Jewish Christians who had been scattered due to persecution, particularly after Stephen's martyrdom (Acts 8:1–4). These believers were experiencing hardship, displacement, and social marginalization. Many of them were poor. They faced external trials and internal temptations. James writes as a pastor addressing real-life faith in hard times.

Yet the message is timeless. Whether dispersed across the Roman Empire or living in the Bay Area today, God's people need the same thing: to know how to live out authentic faith under pressure.

# THE BIG IDEA OF THE BOOK

Genuine faith in Christ always results in a transformed life—visible in our trials, our tongues, our treatment of others, and our trust in God.

This book is practical Christianity in motion. It's where what we believe starts showing up in how we live. James calls us not just to believe, but to behave accordingly.

### DATE

Jesus' crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension likely occurred around A.D. 30–33.

So if James was written between A.D. 44 and 49, then it was composed approximately 11 to 19 years after Jesus ascended.

That makes James one of the earliest New Testament books, possibly even the first! Paul's letters began circulating just after this period (starting with Galatians or 1 Thessalonians), and the Gospels came later.

# Why Does This Matter?

It shows that the early Church was already wrestling with how faith should be lived out.

It reinforces the practical urgency of James's words—he wasn't writing a theoretical theology decades after Christ but pastoring people in the immediate aftermath of Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

It reminds us that Christian living has always mattered from the very beginning —not just believing the right things but walking in them.

### THE BIG IDEA OF THE BOOK

Genuine faith in Christ always results in a transformed life—visible in our trials, our tongues, our treatment of others, and our trust in God. This book is practical Christianity in motion. It's where the spiritual rubber meets the road. James is urging the church to live what they believe. James calls us not just to believe, but to behave accordingly. How can we as Christians, win people to Christ if they cannot see us acting out our faith everyday and not just on Sunday?

#### **Key Verses in James**

Here are 4–5 pivotal verses that capture the heartbeat of this epistle:

1. James 1:22 – "*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*" This verse summarizes the theme: real faith acts.

2. James 2:17 – "*Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*" True saving faith produces works. Not for salvation—but from it.

3. James 1:2–4 – "*Count it all joy when you fall into various trials...*" Trials grow us. They test and refine genuine faith.

4. James 3:10 – "*Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.*" Our speech reveals our spiritual maturity.

5. James 5:16 – "*The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*" Faithful prayer is powerful and productive.

#### James and the Book of Proverbs: A Wisdom Connection

James is often called the "Proverbs of the New Testament." Why?

Like Proverbs, James is full of concise, practical wisdom. It doesn't unfold as a tightly argued theological treatise like Romans. Instead, James moves from topic to topic, offering spiritual wisdom for everyday life:

- Speech (James 3)
- Poverty and wealth (James 1:9–11; 5:1–6)
- Patience in suffering (James 5:7–11)
- Avoiding favoritism (James 2:1–13)
- Temptation and self-control (James 1:13–15)

Both books call for integrity, humility, and obedience. Both challenge us to live wisely in the fear of the Lord.

#### JAMES IN CONTEXT OF THE WHOLE BIBLE

James fits within the grand story of Scripture by continuing the theme of God calling His people to covenantal obedience.

• In the Old Testament, the Law taught God's people how to walk in wisdom and holiness.

• In the Gospels, Jesus taught that inward righteousness matters more than outward religion.

• In James, that same call is re-emphasized: don't just talk the talk—walk the walk.

James doesn't contradict Paul's teaching on justification by faith. Rather, James clarifies that genuine faith will always show up in how we live. We are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8–9), but we are saved for good works (Ephesians 2:10).

So James serves as a mirror. It helps us see if our faith is authentic. It helps us align our lives with the gospel we profess.

#### BIBLICAL THEOLOGY AND THE BOOK OF JAMES

Several threads of biblical theology run throughout the book:

1. Wisdom from Above - James draws heavily from wisdom literature. He calls believers to live with "wisdom that is from above" (James 3:17), echoing Proverbs and pointing us to Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Colossians 2:3).

#### **BOOK OF JAMES: LIVING OUT OUR FAITH**

2. Faith and Works - The tension between belief and behavior is resolved in the understanding that true faith transforms us. This fits the biblical theme of covenant faithfulness: not merely believing God exists, but trusting Him enough to obey.

3. The Righteous Poor and the Judgment of the Rich - James echoes the prophetic concern for justice. He speaks on behalf of the marginalized and warns the wealthy who oppress. This aligns with God's heart throughout Scripture—from the Law and Prophets to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

4. Endurance in Trials - From Abraham to the early church, God's people are tested. James reminds us that trials refine us, shape us, and produce a mature, steadfast faith. This reflects the biblical theology of sanctification through suffering.

#### **BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE**

The theme of Week 1 is, "Maturity Through Perseverance."

Day 1 Verses: James 1:1–4 Theme: Joy in the Struggle – Trials Grow Our Faith

Day 2 Verses: James 1:5–8 Theme: When You Don't Know What to Do – Ask God for Wisdom and Trust His Guidance

Day 3 Verses: James 1:9–12 Theme: Don't Miss What Really Matters – Lasting Reward Comes Through Endurance

Day 4 Verses: James 1:13–18 Theme: Don't Blame God – Temptation Starts With Us, But God Gives Good Gifts

Day 5 Verses: James 1:19–27 Theme: Don't Just Listen—Live It – Maturity Is Doing the Word

#### **BOOK OF JAMES: LIVING OUT OUR FAITH**

Day 6 Scripture Reference: James 1:1–27 Soaking It In and Life Application

Day 7 Passage Reflections Reflective Questions on the Full Chapter

#### WEEK 1 - MATURITY THROUGH PERSEVERANCE JAMES 1:1-27

BOOK OF JAMES: LIVING OUT OUR FAITH

### DAY 1 - JAMES 1:1-4

#### **INFALLIBLE PROOFS**

# **Devotional Thought:**

James gets straight to the point. No long introductions—just a bold statement: "Count it all joy when you fall into various trials." If we're honest, that feels a little upside down. Who naturally enjoys hardship? But James isn't saying we should fake happiness. He's saying that trials—hard as they may be—can lead to something good. Something deep.

God uses trials like a skilled craftsman uses tools. He's shaping us, stretching our faith, and building something strong inside us. When we stay faithful during the tough moments, we're growing. We're maturing. And James wants us to see trials not as setbacks, but as setups for spiritual growth.

Day 1 Key Words to study:

Servant - greek word is doulos; meaning a slave. James the 1/2 brother of Christ was literally declaring himself to be the spiritual slave of Jesus
Count it all joy - to "count" means to consider
Trials - tests & temptations
Faith - undeniable confidence in God
Patience - the power to withstand hardship or stress. Inward fortitude (based on faith in God)

#### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

One of the biggest reasons people feel stuck or shaken in their faith is because they don't know what to do with suffering. James gives us a different lens: trials are part of how God grows us up in Christ. Without this perspective, we might miss what God is doing in us while we're focused on what's happening to us. No matter what the trials may be on the outside (James 1:1–12) or the temptations on the inside (James 1:13–27), through faith in Christ we can experience victory. The result of this victory is spiritual maturity.

#### KEY PASSAGE BREAKDOWN

 "Count it all joy" – The Greek word hegesasthe means to consider, to weigh it out in your mind. This isn't about feelings—it's about perspective. You can choose joy when you know there's purpose behind the pain.

 "Testing" – This word (dokimion) was used for testing metal—putting it through fire to prove its purity. That's what God's doing with our faith: refining it, not ruining it.

 "Patience" – The word hypomone means more than just waiting around. It's a kind of faithful, hopeful, enduring strength. Not giving up. Not checking out. Hanging in there because you trust God's doing something good.

#### WHOLE BIBLE CONNECTION

This isn't just James talking—this is God's way all throughout Scripture. Think about Abraham on the mountain with Isaac, or Joseph in prison, or even Jesus in Gethsemane. Trials were never the end of the story. God used those moments to shape hearts, reveal His character, and accomplish His will. Paul echoes James in Romans 5:3–4 when he says that "tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope." So when you're going through it, you're actually in good company—and on a well-worn path of growth.

# Reflections

Reflect on the significance of these first 4 verses and how they relate to you during times of trial in your own life.

#### After reading today's passage, answer these questions:

- 1. Have you ever been in a season where God used a hard time to grow you spiritually?
- 2. Why do you think James says, "count it all joy" instead of just "get through it?"
- 3. In what area of your faith do you think God may be growing your endurance right now?

#### James 1:1–4 (KJV)

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

*3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.* 

4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

### Day 2: James 1:5-8

### WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO

#### **Devotional Thought:**

Trials will test you—and sometimes they'll confuse you too. When life gets hard, it's natural to ask, "What now?" or "Why is this happening?" That's why James follows up the talk on trials with a simple, gracious invitation: "If you lack wisdom, ask God."

God is not stingy with guidance. He doesn't scold us for not knowing. In fact, He's eager to give us what we need to keep walking in faith. But James also adds a challenge—ask in faith. Don't waver. Doubt can destabilize us like waves in a storm. Trust that when you ask, your heavenly Father hears and responds.

#### "WISDOM VERSUS KNOWLEDGE"

In the Bible, knowledge is the accumulation of facts and truth, while wisdom is the God-given ability to rightly apply that knowledge in daily life. Knowledge understands that God is holy; wisdom responds by living a holy life.

James 1:5 highlights that wisdom—unlike mere information—comes from God and enables believers to navigate trials with discernment, humility, and faith. (Proverbs 2:6)

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

When we're in the middle of a tough season, we don't just need answers—we need God's perspective. Wisdom helps us respond rightly, not just react emotionally. And James reminds us that spiritual maturity means learning to lean on God without second-guessing His goodness or His ability to guide us.

#### **KEY PASSAGE / WORD BREAKDOWN**

• "Wisdom" – The Greek word here (*sophia*) refers to spiritual insight—knowing how to apply truth in real-life situations. It's not just knowledge; it's knowing what to do next in a way that honors God.

• "Without reproach" – This phrase shows us that God isn't rolling His eyes when we come to Him. He welcomes our prayers. He's generous, not judgmental.

• "Double-minded" – From the Greek *dipsuchos*, literally meaning "two-souled." It paints the picture of a person pulled in opposite directions—trying to trust God and lean on something else at the same time. This is an important concept because God calls us to commit 100% of ourselves to Him and to not be double-minded, lukewarm (Revelation 3:15-16).

#### WHOLE BIBLE CONNECTION

From the Old Testament to the New, God invites His people to seek wisdom. Proverbs calls it "the principal thing" (Prov. 4:7), and Solomon asked for it above riches or fame (1 Kings 3:9). Jesus Himself is described as the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), and the Holy Spirit guides us into truth (John 16:13).

Asking for wisdom isn't a last resort—it's part of walking closely with the Lord. It reminds us that we don't have all the answers, but we <u>know the One who</u> <u>does.</u>

# Reflections

Think about times in your life when you tried to do something on your own and how much better it would have turned out if you sought the wisdom of God.

#### After reading today's passage, answer these questions:

- 1. What is one area of your life right now where you need God's wisdom to help you grow?
- 2. Do you usually pray first or try to figure things out on your own?
- **3.** Are there any ways you've been double-minded lately trusting God in your head but doubting in practice?

#### James 1:5-8 (KJV)

5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.
6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.
7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.
8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

### Day 3: James 1:9-12

#### DON'T MISS WHAT REALLY MATTERS

#### **Devotional Thought:**

It's easy to measure success the way the world does—by status, wealth, or outward achievement. But James reminds us that in God's kingdom, the scales are flipped. The lowly are lifted, and the rich are humbled—not because wealth is sinful, but because it fades. Like flowers in the heat of summer, earthly riches won't last.

Instead, James points us to something eternal: the crown of life. It doesn't come from status or possessions. It comes through endurance—through sticking with God when life gets hard. When we choose faithfulness over comfort, we gain something that will never fade: God's reward for those who love Him.

#### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Spiritual maturity helps us see beyond the temporary. Whether you have little or much, trials level the playing field. What matters isn't what's in your bank account, but what's being built in your heart. James wants us to focus on lasting riches—the kind you only gain through faithfulness and love for Christ.

#### **KEY PASSAGE / WORD BREAKDOWN**

• "Glory in his exaltation" – The lowly (financially poor or socially overlooked) are reminded that in Christ, they are already lifted up. Their value isn't based on the world's system—it's rooted in their identity as God's beloved.

• "Humiliation" – For the rich, trials are a reminder that wealth is temporary. Their "humbling" is actually a gift that leads them to depend more fully on God.

• "**Crown of life**" – In the Greek (stephanos tēs zōēs), this isn't a royal crown but a victor's wreath, like those given to runners after a race. It symbolizes eternal reward—life with God forever, promised to those who endure in love.

### WHOLE BIBLE CONNECTION

This theme of reversal—God lifting up the humble and humbling the exalted is all over Scripture. Jesus said the last shall be first (Matt. 20:16) and warned that you can't serve both God and money (Matt. 6:24). Paul reminds us that God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong (1 Cor. 1:27). And Revelation 2:10 connects directly with James: "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." God has always been more interested in our faith than in our fortune and earthly riches.

#### **BOOK OF JAMES: LIVING OUT OUR FAITH**

#### 5 CROWNS OF GLORY

In the New Testament, God speaks of 5 crowns that will be given to believers in glory. They include:

 Crown of Victory (Incorruptible Crown) – Given to believers who exercise spiritual discipline and self-control in their Christian walk, resisting the pull of the flesh to run their race with purpose (1 Corinthians 9:24–27).

2. Crown of Rejoicing – Also called the "soul winner's crown," this is awarded to those who faithfully share the gospel and lead others to salvation in Christ (1 Thessalonians 2:19).

 Crown of Righteousness – Reserved for those who live in anticipation of Christ's return, marked by a love for His appearing and a pursuit of holy living (2 Timothy 4:8).

4. Crown of Life – Given to those who endure suffering, trials, and even persecution for their faith, remaining steadfast under pressure (James 1:12).

5. Crown of Glory – Awarded to pastors, elders, and spiritual leaders who faithfully shepherd God's people with humility, care, and integrity (1 Peter 5:4).



BOOK OF JAMES: LIVING OUT OUR FAITH

# Reflections

Feel free to write down any after-reading insights and thoughts

#### After reading today's passage, answer these questions:

- 1. Have you ever experienced a trial that reminded you of what really matters?
- 2. After learning about the Crown of Life, how does this affect your walk with Christ going forward?
- 3. How can we, as the church, encourage one another to pursue lasting eternal rewards rather than temporary earthly ones?

#### Acts 1:9–11 (NIV)

9 Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:

10 But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away.

11 For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.

*12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.* 

#### Day 4: James 1:13-18

#### DON'T BLAME GOD

#### **Devotional Thought:**

It's tempting—no pun intended—to blame someone else when we mess up. James speaks directly to that human tendency: "Don't say God tempted you." God is holy. He never lures us into sin. The real issue isn't out there—it's in here.



Temptation starts with our own desires. It doesn't begin as a bold, defiant act of rebellion. It begins as a whisper, a thought, a pull toward something that looks good but isn't God's best.

But James doesn't just leave us with

the bad news. He reminds us of who God really is—the Giver of every good and perfect gift. He's not out to trap you. He's out to bless you, grow you, and bring you into something better. God doesn't change. He's consistently generous, gracious, and faithful.

### **TEMPTATION ISLAND**

click "here" to read a devotional article about temptation on our church website.

#### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Understanding where temptation comes from helps us fight it. If we wrongly believe God is against us or trying to set us up to fail, we won't run to Him when we struggle. But when we see Him as the Father of lights—unchanging and always good—we're more likely to turn to Him for help rather than hide in shame.

### **KEY PASSAGES / WORD BREAKDOWN**

• "**Tempted**" – The Greek word here (peirazō) can refer to both testing and tempting. God may test our faith to prove it, but He never tempts us to sin. That comes from our own sinful desires.

• "**Drawn away and enticed**" – These are fishing terms in the Greek (exelkō and deleazō). The picture is of bait on a hook—temptation looks appealing, but it leads to death.

• "Father of lights" – A beautiful title for God, pointing to Him as Creator of the stars and source of all illumination—spiritually and physically. Unlike shifting shadows, He is steady and trustworthy.

### WHOLE BIBLE CONNECTION

From the Garden of Eden to the wilderness temptation of Jesus, the Bible makes clear that the battle against sin starts with desire. Eve saw the fruit and desired it. David saw Bathsheba and desired her. But Jesus, though tempted, did not sin (Heb. 4:15). Where Adam failed, Christ succeeded. Now, as James says, we are "brought forth by the word of truth"—a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). Temptation is real, but so is victory in Jesus.

# Reflections

Feel free to write down any after-reading insights and thoughts

#### After reading today's passage, answer these questions:

- 1. Have you ever found yourself blaming God or someone else for a temptation or failure in your own life?
- 2. What desires tend to pull you away from following God's will?
- 3. What are some practical steps you can take to lean into God's goodness when you're tempted to give in?

#### Acts 1:12–14 (NIV)

*13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:* 

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. 18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

### Day 5: James 1:19-27

# DON'T JUST LISTEN, LIVE IT!

**Devotional Thought:** 

James closes this first chapter with a call to action: don't just listen to God's Word—live it out. Maturity isn't proven by how many verses you've memorized or how many sermons you've heard. It's seen in how much of God's Word you actually obey.

James uses a vivid image—a person looking into a mirror, walking away, and forgetting what they looked like. That's what it's like to hear the Word but not let it shape your daily life. God's Word shows us who we are and who we're becoming in Christ. But that truth must move from our heads to our hearts—and then to our hands. That's where real transformation happens.

# WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

It's possible to be spiritually informed but spiritually unchanged. True maturity is about application, not just information. God wants us to take His Word seriously—to listen with humility, speak with grace, control our emotions, and care for those in need. That's what mature, Christlike faith looks like in real life.

#### **KEY PASSAGE / WORD BREAKDOWN**

• "Swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath" – These three commands are tied to spiritual maturity. 1. Listening well requires humility. 2. Speaking wisely demands restraint. 3. And staying calm under pressure shows spiritual depth.

• "Implanted word" – From the Greek emphytos, meaning "inborn" or "deeply rooted." God's Word isn't just something we hear—it's something that grows inside us and bears fruit.

• "Doers... not hearers only" – Its not enough to just hear the Word. Praise God for a wonderful sermon or Bible lesson but this verse makes it very clear that that a Christian does not grow from the "hearing" but true transformational growth comes from the "doing."

### WHOLE BIBLE CONNECTION

This theme echoes the entire Bible. In Deuteronomy, Moses said, "Be careful to observe God's Word, for this is your wisdom" (Deut. 4:6). Jesus said the wise man builds on the rock by hearing and doing His words (Matt. 7:24). And in Romans 2:13, Paul says it's not the hearers of the law who are justified, but the doers. Even in the Great Commission, Jesus commands us to teach others to obey all He has commanded—not just to understand it (Matt. 28:20). God's Word is meant to transform how we live.

# Reflections

Feel free to write down any after-reading insights and thoughts

#### After reading today's passage, answer these questions:

1. What does it look like to be a "doer" of the word in your own life?

2. How does controlling our tongues relate to spiritual maturity?

3. What might God be asking you to do in your life in response to this passage?

#### Re-read James 1:19-27

#### DAY 6 - Scripture Reference: Acts 1:1-26

(Summarizing the readings from Days 1-5)

### SOAKING IT IN

This first chapter of James lays the foundation for spiritual maturity by showing us what faith looks like when it's working. And it begins right where life gets hard: trials, temptations, and tests. We've learned that mature faith doesn't crumble under pressure—it leans in. It counts trials as joy, not because they feel good, but because they do good—they grow us.

We've also seen that maturity asks God for wisdom, rather than relying on its own understanding. It stops blaming God when sin shows up and instead takes personal responsibility. Maturity doesn't just hear the Word—it does something with it. It speaks slowly, listens deeply, resists anger, and loves the vulnerable. In other words, James teaches that maturity isn't just a belief—it's a way of life. A consistent, enduring, obedient walk with God.

Spiritual growth doesn't happen overnight. But each choice we make—to trust, to obey, to persevere—moves us one step closer to becoming "perfect and complete, lacking nothing" (v. 4). And that's the goal: not perfection in performance, but maturity in Christ.

### WHAT DO I WANT TO ACCOMPLISH THROUGH THIS BIBLE STUDY?

Don't skip this step. Write down your thoughts below:

BOOK OF JAMES: LIVING OUT OUR FAITH

### DAY 7

### PASSAGE REFLECTIONS

- 1. What part of this first chapter challenged you the most and why?
- 2. What is one area of your life where you know that God is calling you to a greater degree of obedience?
- 3. Based on his chapter, has your view of how you respond to challenges changed or is it still the same?
- 4. In your own words, can you explain the process of sin?
- 5. Now that you know the process of sin, how can you help someone who is in sin to be set free?

Let this week anchor your faith. God is more interested in forming your character than fixing your comfort. The tests you're going through are not in vain—they are producing something eternal in you. Keep pressing on. Keep doing the Word. And keep your eyes on the "Crown of Life!" He has promised. Be blessed! -Pastor Davis