

Wisdom and Instruction for the Maturing

Disciple

James 1:1-5:1 ESV

INTRODUCTION: (1:1)

- This is written by _____.
- This is written to _____ Christians.
- James is writing to individuals who have been _____.

CHAPTER 1 SPIRITUAL MATURITY DOES NOT HAPPEN SEPARATE FROM GOD.

(Key Verse: James 1:18)

1st Imperative: As you face the _____ trials of life which will vary in intensity, length, and scope determine to find joy in them. (1:2)

- Trials test the faith of a disciple and will _____ that faith. (1:3)

- When faith is _____ in the life of a disciple the disciple is transformed. (1:4)

- God is perfecting that disciple.
- God is not yet done working on that disciple.
- God does not desire his disciples to fall short of His magnificent design.

1st Wisdom Statement: _____ is the giver of wisdom. (1:5)

- God will _____ wisdom to those who ask for it.
- When asking for wisdom; the disciple does so _____ God is the giver of wisdom and He will give it to those who ask. (1:6)

- When an _____ person turns to follow Truth, they are saved from death. (5:20)

- Their sins have been _____ for.

- Praying in obedience will deliver the sick individual. (5:15)
- You have placed their care into God's hands.
- Your sins are forgiven.
- Prayerful fellowship and confession of sin bring _____ to the entire body of Christ. (5:16)
- _____ the prayer of those justified by Christ a great power is at work.
- Example: Elijah was _____ to us. (5:17)
 - Yet when he prayed the rain stopped for 3 and a half years.
 - He prayed again, and it rained. (5:18)

10th Imperative: Do not let individuals turn from truth without a _____. (5:19)

- Those who _____ that God is the giver of wisdom look for it somewhere else.
- Those who look for wisdom outside of God's giving it to them should not _____ anything from God. (1:7)
- Those who look for wisdom outside of God's giving it to them are not convinced where their _____ in life should come from. (1:8)

2nd Imperative: God is to be given the glory and praise for _____ circumstance an individual finds themselves in. (1:9-10)

- The _____ life of both the rich and the poor will come to an end.

- The days of an individual's life will cause them to _____. (1:11)
 - They will not be beautiful forever.
 - Their money will not last.
 - Before they have _____ they desire, they will no longer be able to pursue those things.

2nd Wisdom Statement: The disciple of Christ is _____ through trial. (1:12)

3rd Wisdom Statement: God is not the cause of our _____ to live in righteousness and true holiness. (1:13)

- God is never personally _____ with sin nor drawn to it.
- God does not lay _____ for us.

- When you say you will _____ something; do it.
- When you say you are _____ going to do something then stay out of it.
- By keeping your word; you will be _____.

9th Imperative: Live a life of _____.

- Prayer is the _____ to God when facing struggles. (5:13)
- Prayer is the _____ of the heart when shouting out in thanksgiving.
- Prayer is the _____ of those in need of healing. (5:14)
 - Ask for faithful churchmen to come and pray with you.
 - Ask them to pray over you.
 - Allow them to pour olive oil upon you.

17th Wisdom Statement: Learn from the faithful how to be faithful in _____ times. (5:10)

- The prophets of old are set as individuals to imitate because they were not _____ from the task given to them even though it was hard. (5:11)
- Job is set as an individual to imitate because he does not turn from God when _____ a trial.
 - God shows His sovereignty through Job's trial.
 - God shows His love and care for Job in the completion of the trial.

8th Imperative: Live in such a way that contracts are not _____ for people to believe you will do what you have said. (5:12)

- Temptation to sin rises from within an individual according to their _____ lust. (1:14)
 - When the lust within an individual has its full _____ that individual will sin. (1:15)
 - If the sin is allowed to grow and develop in an individual it will bring death.
- It is a _____ of Christ's enemies to make us believe that bad things come from God and good things come from man. (1:16)
 - Everything good is from God. (1:17)
 - Everything good comes from the creator God.
 - God always has and always will give good things _____.

4th Wisdom Statement: The disciples of Christ are the _____ of a redemption plan that will one day affect the entire creation. (1:18)

5th Wisdom Statement: Self-control, which is produced through the Holy Spirit in us, _____ the righteousness of God in our actions. (1:19-20)

- Spirit-control is not produced in the lives of those living in the _____. (1:21)
- Spirit-control is a _____ of God's Word transforming His disciples into individuals who are controlled by the Holy Spirit.
 - Those who _____ in obedience to what they have heard will be changed. (1:22)

- He knows they cannot defend themselves

- Instruction: _____ to be made rich by Christ when He comes. (5:7)
- Example: The farmer does not _____ until it is time.
 - When it is harvest time, he knows.
 - When Christ is ready, and the work is complete we will know if we are looking for Him. (5:8)

7th Imperative: Do not _____ about your fellow disciples. (5:9)

- Complaining about others, places you in _____ to be judged yourself.
- Remember this: Jesus is _____ what is going on.

- During these days of all day's selfishness with resources is a great waste.
- Warning: Those who have individuals under their employment and did not give them what they deserve for their work will be _____ by Christ. (5:4)
 - These employees are hurting because of your _____.
 - Jesus has _____ their cries against you.
 - He has seen your lavish lifestyle. (5:5)
 - He knows your greed goes to your core.
 - He knows your actions have led to the death of His children. (5:6)

- Those who do not obey what they have heard are _____ to themselves when they say they are OK.
 - Those who do not obey see what needs to change but _____ everything is fine. (1:23)
 - Those who do not obey turn away from Scripture _____ what God has revealed to them. (1:24)
- The disciple who responds in obedience to the Word of God and refuses to not be changed by it will be blessed in their _____. (1:25)
- Spirit-control is a _____ of whether an individual's religion has any value. (1:26)

6th Wisdom Statement: Genuine worship of God

brings the disciple to... (1:27)

- ... see outside of their own needs and realize the needs of others; drawing them to do something about those needs.
- ... see themselves in the light of a holy God propelling them to cast off every sinful action.

CHAPTER 2 SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS SEEN PHYSICALLY

(Key Verse: James 2:26)

3rd Imperative: While living out your faith in the

Lord Jesus Christ; accept every person without

_____. (2:1)

- Example: Socioeconomic _____ among the gathering of disciples.

CHAPTER 5 SPIRITUAL MATURITY

PRODUCES AN ETERNAL FOCUS

(Key Verse: James 5:8)

16th Wisdom Statement: God will hold the

_____ responsible for the way they handle their wealth. (5:1)

- Warning: Those who _____ the resources God has entrusted them with are in danger of His wrath.
 - Resources have a _____ life. (5:2)
 - Unused resources are _____ down.
 - The ruin of non-corrosive resources shows your greedy accumulation. (5:3)
 - The presentation of this evidence will consume you with guilt.

- One man enters who appears wealthy.
(2:2)
- One man enters who appears poor.
- The wealthy looking man is given a respectful position. (2:3)
- The poor looking man is put in a corner or seated on the floor.
- Because you do not _____ correctly you have decided which person has more value among the brethren. (2:4)
- Instruction: When a distinction of honor is made because of socioeconomic status the works of Christ are being _____. (2:5)
 - The poor are not given positions of _____ even among Christ's disciples. (2:6)

- The rich have used their influence to hurt the body of Christ.
 - The rich have taken disciples before judges.
 - The rich have mocked and ridiculed Christ and His disciples. (2:7)
- Those who provide for everyone the way they would provide for _____ are living in obedience to Christ. (2:8)
 - Those who make _____ in their treatment of others are sinning against God. (2:9)

7th Wisdom Statement: If an individual cannot keep the law _____ without exception he has not kept the law at all. (2:10)

- You are not God.

14th Wisdom Statement: It is unwise to act as if you are in control of _____. (4:13)

- These individuals boast about something they _____ know. (4:14)
- Life is _____, and one cannot know how long theirs will last.
- Instruction: When laying out a plan; _____ the statement to include God's sovereign hand. (4:15)
- When the sovereignty of God is not _____ in an individual's plans they are full of pride. (4:16)

15th Wisdom Statement: When an individual knows they are not speaking or acting in the way they should they are _____. (4:17)

- **True Confession** allows an individual to _____ ask much of our Father. (vs.18-19)

6th Imperative: Brothers in Christ do not _____ each other. (4:11)

- Those who slander their brothers are doing the _____ of what the law instructs and treat it as ineffective.
- Those who determine that the law is ineffective have made themselves the _____.
- Those who make themselves the law have _____ their place.
 - God alone establishes the law and judges according to it. (4:12)
 - God alone determines who receives mercy and who receives judgment.

- God has established every part of the law. (2:11)
- When any part of the law is broken the one who broke it is guilty of the _____ law.

4th Imperative: Unconstrained by the law (because Christ has fulfilled it in His death) live as one who is being _____ by it. (2:12)

- Those who are unkind to others will not receive _____ when judged. (2:13)
- Those who show kindness will be _____ well.

8th Wisdom Statement: Faith that transforms _____ is manifested _____. (2:14)

- Example: An individual in need of physical care.

- A close friend is without basic physical needs coming to you for help. (2:15)
- You respond by saying “I hope all goes well for you.” (2:16)
- They leave without the basic physical needs cared for.
- Were you a help to them at all?
- Instruction: Faith that does not manifest itself in external change is not _____. (2:17)
 - When an individual does not manifest externally the change taking place inside them; they will try to _____ with others about their lack of evidence. (2:18)
 - That individual will have a hard time proving they have been transformed

- A longing to enjoy God again. (vs.11-12)
- A renewed determination to show others how to follow Father. (vs.13)
- Freedom from the guilt of sin committed. (vs.14)
- Praise given to Father for the work only he could do.
- **True Confession** brings the individual back into _____ upon God. (vs.15)
- **True Confession** is _____ than worship. (vs.16)
- **True Confession** is a sweet-smelling _____. (vs.17)

- **True Confession** sees the _____ of the sin committed before Father. (vs.4)
- **True Confession** shows a _____ to face the punishment for sin.
- **True Confession** comes through an acceptance of the _____ to sin against Father. (vs.5)
- **True Confession** is _____ first. (vs.6)
- **True Confession** manifests itself _____ . (vs.7)
- **True Confession** results in...
 - Emotional/physical restoration. (vs.8)
 - Restored Fellowship with God. (vs.9)
 - A Restored Spiritual life. (vs.10)

- _____ without showing it externally.
 - It takes more than belief in God to _____ a life. (2:19)
- Example: Abraham and Isaac (2:20)
 - The internal reality manifested itself in external _____. (2:21)
 - Abraham’s faith is demonstrated by his actions. (2:22)
 - Through his actions Abraham _____ he believed God. (2:23)
- Instruction: It is through _____ manifestation that internal change is perceived by those watching. (2:24)
 - Rahab proved her faith when she hid and rescued the Israelites. (2:25)

- The physical is a manifestation of the _____ . (2:26)

- Hate the sin and the scars it will leave on your life. (4:9)
- Cry over this terrible thing that has taken place in your life.
- Prostrate yourself before God and let Him raise you to His desired state. (4:10)

True Confession

Psalm 51:1-19

- **True Confession** acknowledges the reason for our forgiveness is Father's _____ to not give us what we deserve. (vs.1)
- **True Confession** seeks mercy while acknowledging _____ against Father. (vs.2)
- **True Confession** acknowledges _____ sinning against Father. (vs.3)

- God will work against those who stubbornly refuse to repent.
- God will give grace to those who humble themselves before him.
- Instruction: These are steps to humbly _____ to God.
 - Place yourself under God’s direction and care. (4:7)
 - Determine to be unmoved by temptation.
 - Go to God and He will pull you close. (4:8)
 - Work through the physical realities of your sin.
 - Fill your heart and mind with what is right and good.

**CHAPTER 3 SPIRITUAL MATURITY POURS
OUT ON OTHERS
(Key Verse: James 3:13)**

5th Imperative: Those who teach will be judged more strictly and therefore should become teachers _____. (3:1)

9th Wisdom Statement: The _____ to not offend in words is a sign that an individual has restrained his entire body. (3:2)

- Example: Horses and bits (3:3)
- Example: Ships and rudders (3:4)
- Instruction: Words have great _____ to encourage, strengthen, or destroy. (3:5)
- Example: Forest Fires
 - When the tongue is out of control it will quickly spread _____. (3:6)

- A life which is good by every other respect can be _____ by words.
- Example: Training Animals (3:7)
 - Man has learned how to and has successfully controlled every _____.
 - No man has understood how to control the _____. (3:8)
- Instruction: An _____ tongue will bring destruction.

10th Wisdom Statement: Our speech shows our _____, through it we both worship God and destroy people. (3:9)

- We encourage, exhort, profess Christ with our _____. (3:10)

- Some do not have what they desire because their motivation is wrong. (4:3)

13th Wisdom Statement: It is not possible to be a disciple of Christ and _____ by this world's standards. (4:4)

- Instruction: A _____ must be made between God and the world.
- Warning: God is angry (like a jealous husband) when we _____ the world over Him because of the relationship that has been established through the indwelling Holy Spirit. (4:5)
- Response: _____ to God who desires to pour His grace upon his people. (4:6)

CHAPTER 4 SPIRITUAL MATURITY

REDUCES PRIDE

(Key Verse: James 4:6)

12th Wisdom Statement: Fighting is the result of individuals not getting their _____.

- The Question: _____ do fights come from? (4:1)
- Answer: Fights result when desire wins over _____.
 - Example: Murder (4:2)
 - Example: Disunity
 - Example: Prayer
 - Some do not have what they desire because they never ask God for those things.

- We also rant, gossip, judge motives with our _____.
- This is not the sign of an individual walking in the _____.
- Example: Water Springs (3:11)
- Example: Fruit trees (3:12)
- Example: Bodies of Water

11th Wisdom Statement: Those who are wise show their wisdom in _____ born through meekness. (3:13)

- Signs that an individual is _____ wise. (3:14)
 - They are deeply devoted to their _____.
 - They are driven out of a desire to make themselves look _____ than others.

- These characteristics have become the _____ of their life.
- When bitter jealousy and selfish ambition consume an individual, they _____ their internal reality and mislead others into thinking they are wise.
- Wisdom that is from God does not come with these _____ or manipulations. (3:15)
- These characteristics are:
 - Of human wisdom.
 - Of natural origin.
 - In line with _____ thinking.
- This way of living leads to sin _____ by more sin. (3:16)

- Signs that an individual is _____. (3:17)
 - The individual is _____ right.
 - The individual is not consumed with _____.
 - The individual is not _____.
 - The individual is willing to _____.
 - The individual has an abundance of _____ for those in need.
 - The individual displays an _____ of positive moral qualities.
 - The individual genuinely cares without _____.
 - The life of the wise leads to good _____ out in peace on others.
- (3:18)