

The Book of James:  
Ancient Wisdom for Modern-Day Times  
Week One: February 18, 2024

**I. Who is James?**

*James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings. (James 1:1)*

1. James is the brother of Jesus.
2. James was a skeptic of Jesus.
3. James was a follower of Jesus after the Resurrection.
4. James becomes the leader of the Jerusalem Church.

**II. What is the letter of James?**

1. The Book of James is for all believers.
2. The Book of James is how to live like Jesus, practically.
  - a. Hellenistic culture.
  - b. Skillfully written in Greek.
  - c. For Israel, the New Church.

**III. How can we make good decisions in our lives?**

1. "Consider it pure joy..." (James 1:2)

"... know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." (James 1:3)

- a. Trials.
- b. Temptations.

*No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.*  
*(1 Corinthians 10:13)*

- c. Tests.

2. "Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." (James 1:4)
  - a. Mature.
  - b. Complete.
  
3. "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." (James 1:5)
  - a. Wisdom from God is a gift!
  - b. Wisdom from God is generously given!
  - c. Wisdom from God is continuously divine!

*But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do. (James 1:6-8)*

### **Small Group Discussion Questions**

1. Share a trial, temptation, or testing where God revealed His wisdom to you. What was the benefit of His wisdom in that situation?
2. Why do we NOT go to God when His wisdom is generously, divinely, and continually given? Share an example.
3. Do you need God's wisdom in your life today? Pray for God to provide for you (and have others pray with you).

### **News and Notes**

Feb. 18, REFRESH Membership Class: Mission + Vision of VCPC

February 23-24, IF Womens Gathering. Please contact Barb, Mary, or Sharon for details.

March 3, Annual Business General Meeting. Combined service @ 10am. Lunch. ABGM.

June 2, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sunday

Mentoring Moments with Pastor Andy Tuesdays from 11am-noon.