



JAMES

FAITH + ACTION



Part 1

Trials - James 1:2-4 (NIV)

²Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Q: Have joy in a trial...really?

Q: Have you struggled to find joy when you are facing trials?

Q: How are you growing through trials?

Faith - James 1:5-8 (NIV)

⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶But 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. ⁷That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

Q: Do you ask God whole-heartedly? (No doubt, no regret, no shame...)

Q: What does it mean to believe?

Q: What can you work on to develop your faith?

Humility - James 1:9-11 (NIV)

⁹Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. ¹⁰But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. ¹¹For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.

Q: How does humiliation play into your everyday life?

Q: Are you the believer or the rich?

Temptation - James 1:12-18 (NIV)

¹²Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. ¹³When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. ¹⁶Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.

Q: Temptation is not of God but evil, how do you deal with temptation?

Communication 101 - James 1:19-27 (NIV)

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

Q: Who should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry? EVERYONE

Q: How do we get rid of the moral filth and evil?

Q: What is James speaking of 'word planted in you, which can save you'?

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

Q: Who is looking back at you in the mirror?

NIV	ESV
<p>²⁵ <i>But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.</i></p>	<p>²⁵ <i>But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.</i></p>

²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.

Q: Does your speech produce fruit?

²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

(God has a special place for orphans and widows. Look up some of the scriptures below to see how the message doesn't waiver)

Psalm 82:3, Psalm 68:5, Psalm 10:17-18 Exodus 22:22-23 Ephesians 1:3-7, Ephesians 5:32 1 Timothy 5:1-16, 1 Timothy 5:4, 1 Timothy 5:9-10 Revelation 19:7

Question: "What is the law of liberty?"

Answer:

We find the law of liberty first mentioned in James 1:25, "But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing." James here refers to the gospel, which, although it is called here a law, is not, strictly speaking, a law comprised of requirements and enforced by sanctions. Rather, it is a declaration of righteousness and salvation by Christ, an offer of peace and pardon by Him, and a free promise of eternal life through Him. The juxtaposition of the two contradictory terms—"law" and "liberty"—made the point, especially to the Jews, that this was an entirely new way of thinking about both. Paul uses this same technique when he refers to the "law of faith" in Romans 3:27.

The perfect liberty found in Christ fulfills the "perfect law" of the Old Testament because Christ was the only one who could. Those who come to Him in faith now have freedom from sin's bondage and are able to obey God. Christ alone can set us free and give us true liberty (John 8:36).

The phrase "law of liberty" is found again in James 2:12. In this portion of his epistle, James is discussing the sin of showing partiality within the church. He reminds his hearers that to show favoritism toward others is a violation of the command to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Jesus Himself reminded us that all of the Law that God gave to Moses could be summed up into one concise principle—to love God with all the heart, soul and mind, and to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:37–40).

God's Word teaches plainly that all have sinned and stand condemned before God (Romans 3:10, 23; 6:23). No one but Jesus Christ has ever fully obeyed the law of God. He who knew no sin became sin for us (Isaiah 53:5–6; 2 Corinthians 5:21)! Christ's sacrifice on the cross has redeemed from the curse of the Law all who trust in Him by faith (Galatians 3:10–14). Believers have been justified (declared righteous) by His grace (Romans 3:24–28) and are no longer under condemnation (Romans 8:1). All who have trusted Christ have received the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9). It is His power in us that gives us the ability to please God (Galatians 5:13–16).

Christ's perfect sacrifice brings release from the eternal death sentence that the Law brings upon all sinners, and it gives believers the ability to please God as we put off the works of the flesh (Colossians 3:1–9), put on love (Colossians 3:12–17), and walk in (or by) the Spirit day by day. It is by the Spirit's filling and control (Galatians 5:16–26; Ephesians 5:17–21) that we can walk in love and please our Heavenly Father.

What perfect liberty we now enjoy! What a blessed privilege to have received mercy, to be redeemed (liberated) from the bondage of sin, and to be empowered for service by our Creator! Our love for others proves the reality of our faith (1 John 4:7–11). Let us love one another even as He has loved us (1 John 4:19).



Part 2

The Sin of Partiality - James 2:1-9

1 My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. 2 For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, 3 and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool," 4 have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives? 5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? 7 Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called? 8 If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. 9 But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

Showing partiality to rich or poor is already forbidden in Exodus

Exodus 23:1-8

"You shall not bear a false report; do not join your hand with a wicked man to be a malicious witness. 2 You shall not follow the masses in doing evil, nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after a multitude in order to pervert *justice*; 3 nor shall you be partial to a poor man in his dispute. 4 "If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey wandering away, you shall surely return it to him. 5 If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying *helpless* under its load, you shall refrain from leaving it to him, you shall surely release *it* with him. 6 "You shall not pervert the justice *due* to your needy *brother* in his dispute. 7 Keep far from a false charge, and do not kill the innocent or the righteous, for I will not acquit the guilty. 8 "You shall not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the clear-sighted and subverts the cause of the just.

James 2:10-13

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all. 11 For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not commit murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. 12 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. 13 For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

James 2:14-17 Faith and Works

14 What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? 17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

Thus the commands of God are not merely believe but believe and do. Following and obedience are the fruit of believing

- **What would have happened if Noah didn't build the ark? He just decided I have grace(Gen 6:8) and that's it?**
- **What would have happened if Abraham did not leave his fathers household and go to Canaan?**

James 2:18-21

But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." 19 You believe that One early ms reads there is one God God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. 20 But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?

Gen 22:1-5,10-12

Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 2 He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you." 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. 4 On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance. 5 Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and **we will worship and return to you.**" 10 Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 12 He said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

So we see not only did Abraham believe God in his promise through Isaac but obeyed.

Hebrews 11:17-19

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten *son*; 18 *it was he* to whom it was said, "In Isaac your descendants shall be called." 19 He considered that God is able to raise *people* even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.

James 2:22-26

You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, (Gen 15:6) "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. 24 You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. 25 In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? 26 For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

Rahab help and Rahab is saved from the destruction of Jericho

Joshua 2:1-7

Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. "Go, look over the land," he said, "especially Jericho." So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there. 2 The king of

Jericho was told, "Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land." 3 So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land." 4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. 5 At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don't know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them." 6 (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.) 7 So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

Joshua 6:15-17

On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. 16 The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the city! 17 The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent.

It is important to notice James is not saying that works save you but rather without obedience are you truly in God's graces or are you just a wolf in sheep's clothing.



Part 3

Taming the Tongue - James 3:1-2,4-10 (CEB)

¹My brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers, because we know that we teachers will be judged more strictly. ²We all make mistakes often, but those who don't make mistakes with their words have reached full maturity...⁴Consider ships: They are so large that strong winds are needed to drive them. But pilots direct their ships wherever they want with a little rudder. ⁵In the same way, even though the tongue is a small part of the body, it boasts wildly. Think about this: A small flame can set a whole forest on fire. ⁶The tongue is a small flame of fire, a world of evil at work in us. It contaminates our entire lives. Because of it, the circle of life is set on fire. The tongue itself is set on fire by the flames of hell. ⁷People can tame and already have tamed every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish. ⁸No one can tame the tongue, though. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we both bless the Lord and Father and curse human beings made in God's likeness. ¹⁰Blessing and cursing come from the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, it just shouldn't be this way!

Q: Assuming you haven't reached full maturity, how do you attempt to control the "little rudder", the "small flame", the "small body part"?

Q: Do you struggle because you are trying to both bless and curse God's creations?

Q: Is there a way to vent my frustrations without defying God?

James 3:11-12 (CEB) ¹¹Both fresh water and salt water don't come from the same spring, do they? ¹²My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree produce olives? Can a grapevine produce figs? Of course not, and fresh water doesn't flow from a saltwater spring either.

Wisdom from Above - James 3:13-18 (CEB)

¹³Are any of you wise and understanding? Show that your actions are good with a humble lifestyle that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴However, if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, then stop bragging and living in ways that deny the truth. ¹⁵This is not the wisdom that comes down from above. Instead, it is from the earth, natural and demonic. ¹⁶Wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there is disorder and everything that is evil. ¹⁷What of the wisdom from above? First, it is pure, and then peaceful, gentle, obedient, filled with mercy and good actions, fair, and genuine. ¹⁸Those who make peace sow the seeds of justice by their peaceful acts.

Q: Do your actions come from Godly wisdom or earthly wis-DUMB?

Q: How are you planting seeds of Heavenly wisdom?

Q: What crop are you sowing?

It's not too late to change. Start a new crop with the right seeds. Remember that sometimes fertilizer is necessary to promote growth. If you have laid fertilizer, leave it there and don't pick it back up.

Question: "What does the Bible say about venting?"

Answer: *Venting* is the term used to describe the letting out of strong emotions over a specific situation. When we rant to our spouses or close friends about what just happened or how our boss treated us, we are said to be venting. The term *venting* comes from the idea of providing an outlet for air, liquid, or steam. We vent air conditioners, clothes dryers, and pressure cookers. When we express our strong emotions through words, writing, or physical aggression, we are “venting” our emotions.

Venting can be a harmless way to process built-up passion over an event or conversation. Venting can allow us to calm down and return to rational thought. As long as the venting does not take a sinful form involving foul language, hateful speech, or physical harm, it can be a healthy way to calm ourselves so that we regain control of our emotions. Venting is best done with trusted people who understand we are only venting and won't hold us responsible for everything we said in those heated moments (Proverbs 18:24). Likewise, we should be willing to allow friends to vent to us when needed.

For Christians, a few passages of Scripture need to be observed so that our venting does not dishonor the Lord:

1. **Matthew 12:36** — “And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak.” Jesus warns us that God keeps record of our words. What we say with our mouths matters to Him. Venting does not give us the right to disobey the Lord with our words. Rambling on, rehashing the event over and over again, or refusing to forgive and move on is one way we are speaking “idle words.” When venting becomes our pastime, we may have crossed a line from temporary release to permanent lifestyle.

2. **Ephesians 4:29** — “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” Other versions say “foul language and abusive speech.” Many people use venting as a cover to release the ugliness that really is in their hearts. They degrade themselves with gutter language, curse people, and spew hateful thoughts that they would not normally verbalize. Even when venting, we are to remain self-controlled and not assume that injustice gives us permission to contaminate our mouths with unwholesome talk (James 1:26).

3. **Ephesians 4:26–27** — “In your anger do not sin’: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.” Venting is one way we can quickly process our anger and release it before nightfall. When we keep frustration bottled up, we run the risk of physical ailments, anxiety, insomnia, and other woes. Venting is a safe way to handle emotions that are too explosive to keep inside our heads. This verse warns that, if we don't quickly find healthy outlets for our anger, we allow the devil to step in and bring further harm.

By venting our frustrations in healthy ways, we can also bring good out of something bad. Literature, art, and music are ways to vent that can lead to beauty, wisdom, and worship. The classic hymn “It Is Well with My Soul” was penned by Horatio Spafford in 1873 after losing his daughters in a tragic accident at sea. Rather than pointlessly venting to God and others, Spafford channeled that emotional agony into a beautiful song that has touched millions. When her daughter Cari was killed by a drunk driver in 1980, Candace Lightner vented her rage in constructive ways, forming the national organization Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) to help curb the number of alcohol-related accidents.

Many of the psalms can be considered written “vents” by David and others, expressing a plethora of emotions that still resonate with us today. In Psalm 51, David vented to the Lord about his sorrow over sin, crying out for forgiveness and healing. This is an example of venting that benefits others. We are going to become angry. That's part of being human. But we don't have to sin when we express that anger. Venting in appropriate ways to appropriate people at appropriate times is one way we process our feelings, strengthen relationships, and move on.



Part 4

Warning Against Worldliness - James 4:1-12 (ESV)

1What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? 2You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. 4You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? 6But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 7Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. 11Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. 12There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

What wordly struggles are you dealing with?

What is keeping you from your relationship with God?

What is one thing you will commit to changing this week?

Boasting About Tomorrow - James 4:13-17 (ESV)

13Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— 14yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. 15Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." 16As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Have you recently boasted about something?

Are you making plans without the Lord (moving ahead of His timing)?

How can you stay in His will this week?

Misuse of Riches - James 5:1-6 (NASB)

1Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. 2Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. 3Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure! 4Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. 5You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a

day of slaughter. 6You have condemned and put to death the righteous man; he does not resist you.

How are you using your riches?

For you or for the Kingdom?

Exhortation - James 5:7-20 (NASB)

7Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. 8You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door. 10As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful. 12But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment. 13Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. 14Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; 15and the prayer offered in faith will save or restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. 16Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. 17Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. 18Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit. 19My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, 20let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

How are you treating your brothers?

Are you praying?

Are you praising?

Do you have someone to confide in spiritually?