

“A Study in James”

Text: James 1:9-11

1. James not only explained WHAT to ask for (_____), but he also described HOW to ask. We are to ASK in _____.
2. Satan wants to use the test/trials/troubles to _____ us _____, but God uses them to _____ us up.
3. God’s purpose in tests/trials/troubles is _____ maturity.

vv. 9-11: “Believers who are poor (humble circumstances) should take pride that God has made them spiritually rich. Those who are rich should take pride that God has shown them that they are spiritually poor. The rich will die like a wild flower in the grass. The sun rises with burning heat and dries up the plants. The flower falls off, and its beauty is gone. In the same way the rich will die while they are still taking care of business.”

4. Who is the poor referring to? Remember that James is writing to Christians. He is speaking to Christians who are without _____. They are to boast in their _____ (to be spiritually rich). They are spiritually rich because they are “_____” Christ.

Romans 8:14,16,17: “The true children of God are those who let God’s Spirit lead them. And the Spirit himself joins our spirits to say we are God’s children. If we are God’s children, we will receive blessings from God together with Christ. But we must suffer as Christ suffered so that we will have glory as Christ has glory.”

5. Those who are lowly in the world will be _____ in the kingdom of God.
6. The believer in humble circumstances is to _____ in the Lord. This does not mean that he/she is to rejoice because they are poor, unhealthy, or handicapped. It means that he/she rejoices in Christ despite the circumstances – no matter how terrible.
7. Christ loves the _____ person. Christ has saved the lowly and has promised to exalt him/her as a _____ and _____ throughout all eternity.

Matthew 5:3-5: “They are blessed, who realize their spiritual poverty, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them. They are blessed who grieve, for God will comfort them. They are blessed who are humble, for the whole earth will be theirs.”

Matthew 23:11-12: “Whoever is your servant is the greatest among you. Whoever makes himself great will be made humble. Whoever makes himself humble will be made great.”

Mark 10:43-44: “But it should not be that way among you. Whoever wants to become great among you must serve the rest of you like a servant. Whoever wants to become the first among you must serve all of you like a slave.”

8. A humble person does not allow his/her circumstances to _____ them, but rather they _____ their circumstances and in doing so develops a strong, strong spirit. That individual will develop such a strong spirit that with the wisdom of God he/she can conquer any trial thrown against them.
9. A rich person or high person is not _____ by God because of WHO he is or WHAT he has. His rich and high status means absolutely nothing to God.
10. _____ people – no matter their status in life – stand before God as _____.
11. The rich person must not take _____ in their wealth. WHY? Because the wealth will soon perish.

Matthew 6:19-21: “Don’t store treasure for yourselves here on earth where moths and rust will destroy them and thieves can break in and steal them. But store your treasures in heaven where they cannot be destroyed by moths or rust and where thieves cannot break in and steal them. Your heart will be where your treasure is.”

12. The rich person must not “_____” his wealth; instead he should give it to the poor and use it for Christ’s work.
13. This person must not consider his/her wealth to be his/her _____. It belongs to _____.
14. The rich person is not to _____ and bank beyond securing his family. He is to use all to meet the needs of this world – its desperate need for the gospel and for food, water, medicine, education, clothing, and housing.
15. Riches _____. The individual who puts his/her trust in riches instead of God will _____ with his/her riches. They are like a flower that will wither and pass away.

I Peter 1:23-25: “You have been born again, and this new life did not come from something that dies, but from something that cannot die. You were born again through God’s living message that continues forever. The Scripture says, ‘All people are like the grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. The grass dies and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord will live forever.’”

16. Christians who are not in _____ positions in this world should be glad, because they are great in God’s eyes. This brother in humble circumstances is a person without _____ or wealth. Such people are often overlooked, even in our churches today, but they are not overlooked by God.
17. The poor should be glad that riches mean _____ to God, otherwise these people would be considered unworthy. The rich should be glad that money means nothing to God, because money is easily lost.
18. We find _____ wealth by developing our _____ life, not by developing our financial assets.