

Faith in Action: A Study of James
The Perspective Faith Provides

James 1:9-18

A Real Faith for A Real Life

1:1-8

Our trust in Christ is not developed absent of challenge but by applying trust in the midst of challenge.

Perspective on Wealth

1:9-12

The Old Testament and Jewish wisdom literature stress that riches fade, that God vindicates the oppressed and the poor in the end, and that he judges those who keep their wealth and do not share with the poor. James's final statement here resembles Isaiah 40:6-7 and Psalm 102:4, 11 and 16, although the idea was by this time common.

The IVP Bible Background Commentary

A kind of spiritual exercise is outlined here (cf. 4:7-10). In preparation for the coming kingdom of God, the whole church should encourage those poor and destitute, who in everyday life were rejected and kept at the margins, to come forward and to lead the rejoicing of the church in its future hope. They were to have the "most important seats in the synagogue" of the Lord (cf. Luke 20:46). James offered poor believers special encouragement to appropriate their dignity as elect members of God's kingdom.

James

Four features in this section provide encouragement for people caught up in trials. First, God uses trials to produce staying power in those who endure. Second, for those who seek it, God provides wisdom to understand trials. Third, believers, whether rich or poor, find encouragement to rejoice over their position in life. Fourth, God promises a reward to fill the believer with hope.

Hebrews, James

Perspective on Temptation

1:13-15

People sometimes complain, God is tempting me. Two insights about God show that he is not responsible for evil. First, God cannot be tempted by evil. God has no weakness or tendency which temptation can exploit. God's holy character puts him out of reach of temptation. Evil has no appeal for God. Evil is repulsive to God. Second, God does not use evil to tempt anyone. True, God sometimes places us in situations in which we can compromise (Gen. 22:1). However, he does not do this with a view to encourage our sin but to build us up.

Hebrews, James

The solution for temptation is to be found in a close relationship with the Father and a constant response to His Word. One must rest in the unchangeable Lord of light and rely on His life-giving “Word of truth” (cf. Eph. 1:13; Col. 1:5; 2 Tim. 2:15). There is no reason why one of God’s chosen firstfruits, or regenerated believers, has to yield to temptation. He must learn to resist its deadly force, or he can never grow into the spiritual maturity God desires of His children of light (Eph. 5:8; 1 Thes. 5:5).

The Bible Knowledge Commentary

**Trust in Christ provides perspective
to help us live
God oriented lives.**

Questions for Application

- Q1. Why is wealth difficult to handle?

- Q2. What would cause us to blame God when we are being tempted?

- Q3. How can God blessing us lead to God’s glory?