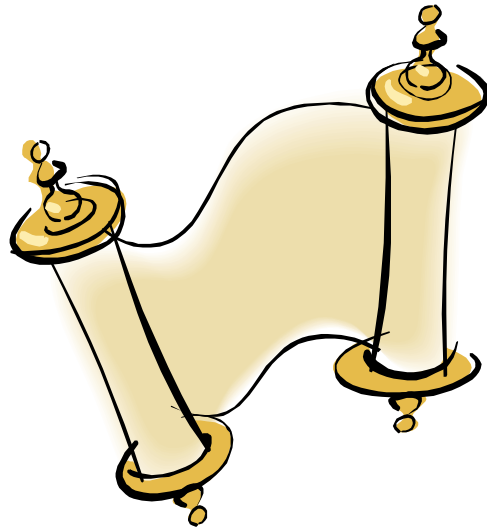


# The Epistle of James



Material provided by Chris Gallagher  
<http://www.preacherspen.org>

### **About this Study Guide:**

First, thank you for taking time to use this material. I am humbled that you have chosen to use this information in your studies.

Second, this material has been designed with an adult Bible class in mind. The material is also suitable for small groups, but emphasis was placed on the material to use in a discussion environment.

Third, because of the material's design, it is not an exhaustive study of the book. The design of the book allows for additional comments.

### **About the Preacher's Pen:**

The Preacher's Pen was designed to "assist others in creating a better day today for a better life tomorrow based on the teachings of Jesus Christ." To fulfill the design, the Preacher's Pen offers articles each week along with other resources to assist others: study/sermon outlines, PowerPoints, eBooks and other resources. Find out more at <http://www.preacherspen.org>.

### **About Chris Gallagher:**

Chris Gallagher is the man behind the Preacher's Pen website and the minister for the Mount Pleasant Church of Christ. Chris has worked full-time in ministry for the past 12 years. Chris is available for seminars, retreats, meetings and other speaking engagements. You may contact Chris through the Preacher's Pen website or by calling 843.608.8255.

## Group and Personal Questions:

1. If you could change one thing about your life, what would it be?

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2. If you could change one thing about your past, what would it be?

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3. If you could change one thing about your future, what would it be?

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4. Why do you want to change?

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5. Do you need to change?

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# Living One's Faith

from the letter from James  
Lesson #1 – Background Information

## Who was James?

- There is more than one James in the New Testament:
  - James the son of Zebedee. (Mark 1:19)
  - James the son of Alphaeus (James the younger). (Mark 15:40; Matthew 27:56)
  - James the father of Judas. (Not Judas Iscariot) (Luke 6:16; John 14:22)
  - James the Lord's brother. (Galatians 1:19)
- More than likely, this James is the brother of Jesus. (Matthew 13:55; Galatians 1:19)
  - James the son of Zebedee died in 44 AD. (Acts 12:2)

## Did James grow spiritually in the New Testament?

- James and the other brothers tried to discourage Jesus. (Mark 6:3; John 7:5)
- James grew spiritually and became a worker:
  - James was with the disciples in the upper room. (Acts 1:14)
  - Peter sent good news to him. (Acts 12:17)
  - James speaks to the brethren at the Jerusalem gathering. (Acts 15:13-21)
  - Paul spoke to James and the elders. (Acts 21:18-25)
    - James is mentioned in Galatians 2.9 as a pillar of the church.

## Keys to the letter:

- Key word – faith (James 1:3, 6; 2:1, 5, 14, 17, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26; 5:15)
- Key verse – James 1:22
- Key chapter – James 2



## Themes of the letter:

- Someone once called the letter of James the “letter of Monday through Saturday Christianity.”

## Other themes:

- “Faithfulness in trying times”
- “Faithfulness that will conquer the world”
- “Faithfulness that will reach the world”
- “Living one's faith”

## Topics covered in this study:

- What is true, Biblical faith?
- What it means to be a Christian?
- How can we make it through trials and temptations?
- How can I live my faith?
- What is the character of a Christian?

### Class Schedule

Lesson #1 – Introduction  
Lesson #2 – James 1:1-18  
Lesson #3 – James 1:19-27  
Lesson #4 – James 2:1-13  
Lesson #5 – James 2:14-26  
Lesson #6 – James 3:1-12  
Lesson #7 – James 3:13-18  
Lesson #8 – James 4:1-10  
Lesson #9 – James 4:11-17  
Lesson #10 – James 5:1-12  
Lesson #11 – James 5:13-20  
Lesson #12 – The Final Test

**Bonus Assignment:** Find 10 scriptures on spiritual growth.

## Living One's Faith

from the letter from James  
Lesson #2 – James 1:1-18

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### Quick Review:

- Who wrote James?
- What are the keys to the letter?
- Did James grow spiritually throughout his life?
  - What ten scriptures did you find on spiritual growth?

### Discussion Questions:

1. Who were the twelve tribes that were scattered abroad? (James 1:1)
2. How can one be happy when they fall into trials and temptations? (James 1:2-4)
3. The testing of our faith produces \_\_\_\_\_. (James 1:3)
  - (a) How?
4. If anyone lacks wisdom, what should they do? (James 1:5-8)
  - (a) How are they to ask?
  - (b) Define “doubting?”
5. What is the lower brother to glory in? (James 1:9)
  - (a) The rich are to glory in what? (James 1:9)
6. Why will a rich man fade away in his pursuits? (James 1:9)
7. Blessed is that man who does what? (James 1:12)
8. What is the crown of life? (James 1:12)
9. Does God tempt anyone? (James 1:13)
10. When one is tempted what has happened? (James 1:14)
  - (a) What are desires?
  - (b) To what, do desire gives birth? (James 1:15)
11. Where do good and perfect gifts come from? (James 1:17)
12. How are we brought forth? (James 1:18)



### Next Lesson:

- Part of a Christian's character (James 1:19-27)

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**Bonus Assignment:**      *What characteristics do you feel a Christian should have?*

# Living One's Faith

from the letter from James  
Lesson #3 – James 1:19-27

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## Quick Review:

- To whom was James writing?
- What are the keys to the letter?
- Does God tempt anyone?
  - How is one tempted?

## Discussion Questions:

- 1) Every man should be swift to \_\_\_\_\_ and slow to \_\_\_\_\_? (James 1:19)
- 2) What does the wrath of man not produce? (James 1:20)
- 3) What was the implanted word? (James 1:21)
- 4) Is the implanted word able to save your soul? (James 1:21)
- 5) Be \_\_\_\_\_ of the word? (James 1:22)
  - a) How important is hearing the word?
- 6) The one who is a hearer and not doer is like what? (James 1:23-24)
- 7) What is the perfect law of liberty? (James 1:25)
- 8) What causes one's religion to be useless? (James 1:26)
- 9) What is pure and undefiled religion? (James 1:27)
- 10) How can we keep ourselves unspotted from the world? (James 1:27)



## Next Lesson:

- More about a Christian's character (James 2:1-13)

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**Bonus Assignment:**      *What is faith and what is involved in faith?*

## **Living One's Faith**

*from the letter from James  
Lesson #4 – James 2:1-13*

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### **Quick Review:**

- What is faith?
- What did James want his readers to do? (*hint – James 1:22*)

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. James does not want the brethren to hold the faith of Christ with what? (James 2:1)
2. How does one hold the faith of Christ with partiality? (James 2:2-4)
3. One who shows partiality does what? (James 2:9)
4. What convicts a person? (James 2:9)
5. How does one become a transgressor of the law? (James 2:10-11)  
(a) 1 John 3:4
6. What is the law of liberty? (James 2:12)
7. What triumphs over judgment? (James 2:13)



### **Next Lesson:**

- What is true Biblical faith? (James 2:14-26)

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**Bonus Assignment:**      *Describe a living faith?*

## Living One's Faith

from the letter from James  
Lesson #5 – James 2:14-26

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### Quick Review:

- What are some characteristics of a Christian?
- How does faith affect our congregation?
- How does faith affect you?

### Discussion Questions:

1. Define the word "profit?"
2. How good is faith if it does not have works? (James 2:17)
3. The demons believe and \_\_\_\_\_. (James 2:19)
  - (a) Do the demons believe in Christ?
  - (b) Does Satan accept the fact that Jesus is the Son of God?
  - (c) Is there a difference between faith and belief? If so, explain. If not, explain.
4. In Abraham's life, faith worked with what to make his faith perfect? (James 2:22)
5. What was Abraham called and why? (James 2:23)
6. How is a man justified? (James 2:24)
7. Can the body function without the spirit? (James 2:26)
8. Can faith function without works? (James 2:26)



### Next Lesson:

- SMALL THINGS produce **BIG RESULTS** (James 3:1-12)

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**Bonus Assignment:** Describe the language of a Christian?

# Living One's Faith

from the letter from James  
Lesson #6 – James 3:1-12

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## Quick Review:

- What accompanies true, Biblical faith?
- Describe the characteristics of a Christian?

## Discussion Questions:

1. Why does James not want many of the brethren to become teachers? (James 3:1)
2. If anyone does not stumble in \_\_\_\_\_ he is a \_\_\_\_\_ man (James 3:2).
3. Do SMALL THINGS produce **BIG RESULTS**?
  - (a) What turns a horse? (James 3:3)
  - (b) What turns a ship? (James 3:4)
  - (c) What can start a forest fire? (James 3:5)
  - (d) What can the tongue do to the body? (James 3:5)
4. How does James describe the tongue? (James 3:5)
5. Who can tame the tongue? (James 3:8)
6. According to James 3:10, what should not be so?
7. In your opinion, what point does James want to get across by verses 11 and 12 of chapter 3.



## Next Lesson:

- What type of wisdom do you possess? (James 3:13-18)

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**Bonus Assignment:**      *How would you describe the wisdom of a Christian?*

## Living One's Faith

from the letter from James  
Lesson #7 – James 3:13-18

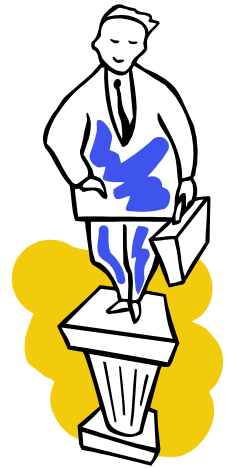
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### Quick Review:

- What type of wisdom do you have?
- The tongue can do great things.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Define “good conduct.”? (James 3:13)  
(a) Describe conduct befitting a Christian?
2. How are works to be done? (James 3:13)
3. What is “bitter envy?” (James 3:14)  
(a) Does envy lead a person to a self-seeking nature? (James 3:14)
4. What type of wisdom is envious, self-seeking, boastful, and lies against the truth? (James 3:15)  
(a) If we lack wisdom, what are we to do?
5. What other thing is found where envy and self-seeking exist? (James 3:16)
6. What type of wisdom is pure? (James 3:17)  
(a) What follows pure wisdom? (James 3:17)
7. What is the fruit of righteousness? (James 3:18)  
(a) Whom is the fruit of righteousness sown by? (James 3:18)



### Next Lesson:

- Resisting pride (James 4:1-10)
  - AND how does pride interfere with people's lives?

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**Bonus Assignment:**      *How would you describe the humility of a Christian?*

# Living One's Faith

from the letter from James  
Lesson #8 – James 4:1-10

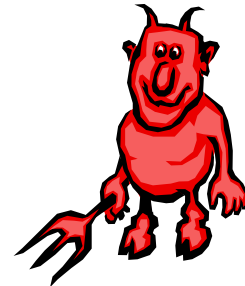
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## Quick Review:

- Should we seek wisdom from above or wisdom from this earth?
- How do you gain wisdom?

## Discussion Questions:

1. Where do wars and fights come from? (James 4:1)
2. Define desire?
3. You do not have because \_\_\_\_\_. (James 4:2)
4. You do not have because you ask \_\_\_\_\_. (James 4:3)
  - (a) How do you ask amiss? (James 4:3)
5. Friendship with the world is \_\_\_\_\_ with God. (James 4:4)
  - (a) What is enmity? (James 4:4)
  - (b) Who does an enemy of God serves?
  - (c) What is the future of an enemy of God?
6. How does the Spirit “yearn jealously?” (James 4:6)
  - (a) To whom does God gives grace? (James 4:6)
7. What is the result of resisting the devil? (James 4:7)
8. What happens to one who draws near to God? (James 4:8)
  - (a) How does God draw near to us?
9. What happens to one who humbles himself in the sight of God? (James 4:10)



## Next Lesson:

- Living One's Life (James 4:11-17)
  - AND what will happen tomorrow?

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**Bonus Assignment:**      *What is the future of a Christian?*

## Living One's Faith

from the letter from James  
Lesson #9 – James 4:11-17

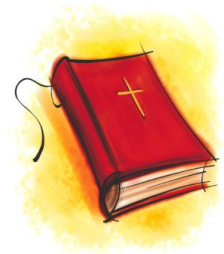
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### Quick Review:

- How should one act if they have the conduct of a Christian? (James 3:13)
- How do you gain wisdom?
- Whom does God resist?

### Discussion Questions:

1. Christians are not to speak \_\_\_\_\_ of a brother. (James 4:11)  
(a) Describe evil speech? (Gossip, backstabbing, etc. – Do those apply as evil speech?)
2. What does one do who speaks evil of his brother? (James 4:11)
3. How many Lawgivers are there? (James 4:12)
4. Do we know what will happen tomorrow? (James 4:14)  
(a) Should we worry about tomorrow?
5. How does James describe our life? (James 4:14)
6. What should Christians say about the days ahead? (James 4:15)
7. What kind of boasting is evil? (James 4:16)  
(a) Is all boasting evil?  
(b) What is boasting?
8. If you know to go good and do not take action what have you done? (James 4:17)



### Next Lesson:

- Where is your treasure? (James 5:1-12)

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**Bonus Assignment:**      *What have you gained through these lessons to be a person of character?*

## Living One's Faith

from the letter from James  
Lesson #10 – James 5:1-12

### Quick Review:

- To whom does God give grace?
- Does God resist anyone?
- Whom does God resist?

### Discussion Questions:

1. Why are the rich to weep and how? (James 5:1)
  - (a) What does James describe as being corrupted? (James 5:2)
    - i) Why do riches corrupt? (Matthew 6:19-21)
2. What does the corrosion do to the readers flesh? (James 5:3)
3. What does James say was done to the workers? (James 5:4)
4. What is the Lord of the Sabbath (James 5:4)
5. What have the corrupt rich fattened? (James 5:5)
6. Be \_\_\_\_\_ until what? (James 5:7)
  - (a) Be patient as the \_\_\_\_\_. (James 5:7)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ your hearts. (James 5:8)
  - (a) How does one establish their hearts?
8. Do not \_\_\_\_\_ against one another. (James 5:9)
  - (a) The judge is where? (James 5:9)
9. Who are we to take as an example of suffering and patience? (James 5:10)
  - (a) Can you think of any examples?
10. The Lord is very \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (James 5:11)
11. Above all, do not do what? (James 5:12)



### Next Lesson:

- Final Thoughts (James 5:13-20)

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**Bonus Assignment:**      *What helps us to focus on today?*

## Living One's Faith

from the letter from James  
Lesson #11 – James 5:12-20

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### Quick Review:

- Remember James 1:22
- How are you living your faith?
- Are you doing what you know you should?

### Discussion Questions:

1. What should someone do if they are suffering? (James 5:13)
2. What are the merry to do? (James 5:13)
3. Whom should one call when they are sick? (James 5:14)  
(a) What are the elders to do? (James 5:14)
4. What will the prayer of faith do? (James 5:15)
5. To whom are you to confess your trespasses? (James 5:16)  
(a) What are trespasses?
6. Describe an effective, fervent prayer? (James 5:16)
7. How did Elijah have a nature like our? (James 5:17)
8. What does one who turns a sinner from error do? (James 5:19-20)



# REVIEW TEST ON THE EPISTLE OF JAMES

## Background Material:

- More than likely this James is the brother of Jesus. (Matthew 13:55; Galatians 1:19)
- James and the other brothers tried to discourage Jesus. (Mark 6:3; John 7:5)
- James grew spiritually and became a worker:
  - James was with the disciples in the upper room. (Acts 1:14)
  - Peter sent good news to him. (Acts 12:17)
  - James speaks to the brethren at the Jerusalem gathering. (Acts 15:13-21)
  - Paul spoke to James and the elders. (Acts 21:18-25)
  - He is mentioned as a pillar in Galatians 2:9.

## Keys to the epistle of James:

- The key word: \_\_\_\_\_  
○ (James 1:3, 6; 2:1, 5, 14, 17, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26; 5:15)
- The key verse: \_\_\_\_\_  
○ (James 1:22)
- The key chapter: \_\_\_\_\_  
○ (James 2)

## Review Test Questions:

### *Chapter 1*

- 1) The testing of our faith produces \_\_\_\_\_. (James 1:3)
  - a) Stronger faith
  - b) Intelligence
  - c) Patience
- 2) If anyone lacks wisdom, what should they do? (James 1:5-8)
  - a) Cry
  - b) Pray
  - c) Read the Gospel Advocate
- 3) Blessed is that man who does what? (James 1:12)
  - a) Read James' words
  - b) Prays
  - c) Endures temptation
- 4) When one is tempted what has happened? (James 1:14)
  - a) Satan entices him.
  - b) The person becomes drawn away by their desires and enticed.
  - c) He dies.

- 5) Where do good and perfect gifts come from? (James 1:17)
  - a) Santa Claus
  - b) The Father of Lights
  - c) Our financial gain
  
- 6) Every man is to be swift to \_\_\_\_\_ and slow to \_\_\_\_\_. (James 1:19)
  - a) Eat, diet
  - b) Hear, speak
  - c) Speak, hear
  
- 7) What does the wrath of man produce? (James 1:20)
  - a) The righteousness of God
  - b) The righteousness of man
  - c) Good faith
  
- 8) Be \_\_\_\_\_ of the word. (James 1:22)
  - a) Partakers
  - b) Doers
  - c) Hearers
  
- 9) What is the perfect law of liberty? (James 1:25)
  - a) The Bible
  - b) A brotherhood commentary series
  - c) Only the book of James

## **Chapter 2**

- 1) James does not want the brethren to hold the faith of Christ with what? (James 2:1)
  - a) Faith
  - b) Partiality
  - c) Stubbornness
  
- 2) What does one who shows partiality do? (James 2:9)
  - a) Commits sin
  - b) Lies
  - c) Strengthens their faith
  
- 3) What triumphs over judgment? (James 2:13)
  - a) God
  - b) Mercy
  - c) Love
  
- 4) Faith if it does not have works is \_\_\_\_\_. (James 2:17)
  - a) Worthless
  - b) Dead
  - c) Gracious

- 5) What do the demons believe in? (James 2:19)
  - a) In faith
  - b) In God
  - c) They are wrong
  
- 6) A man is justified by \_\_\_\_\_. (James 2:24)
  - a) Faith
  - b) Works
  - c) Grace
  
- 7) The body without the \_\_\_\_\_ is dead. (James 2:26)
  - a) Food
  - b) Spirit
  - c) God's word
  
- 8) Faith without \_\_\_\_\_ is dead also. (James 2:26)
  - a) Alive
  - b) Great
  - c) Dead
  - d) Works

### **Chapter 3**

- 1) James does not want many of the brethren to become teachers. Why? (James 3:1)
  - a) They cannot teach
  - b) Teachers are too plentiful
  - c) Teacher will receive a stricter judgment
  
- 2) If anyone does not stumble in \_\_\_\_\_ he is a \_\_\_\_\_ man. (James 3:2)
  - a) Word, great
  - b) Word, perfect
  - c) Doctrine, Christian
  
- 3) The tongue is a what? (James 3:6)
  - a) A fire
  - b) A ocean
  - c) A symbol of our hope
  
- 4) Who can tame the tongue? (James 3:8)
  - a) No one
  - b) Everyone
  - c) Half of all people
  
- 5) How are works are to be done? (James 3:13)
  - a) Meekness and wisdom
  - b) Meekness and fear
  - c) Wisdom and fear

- 6) What type of wisdom is envious, self-seeking, boastful and lies against the truth? (James 3:15)
  - a) Earthly
  - b) Heavenly
  - c) Personal
  
- 7) Where envy and self-seeking exist, what else is there? (James 3:16)
  - a) Every evil thing
  - b) Every good thing
  - c) Envy and Strife
  
- 8) What type of wisdom is pure? (James 3:17)
  - a) Personal wisdom
  - b) The wisdom of this Earth
  - c) The wisdom from above
  
- 9) The fruit of righteousness is sown by \_\_\_\_\_. (James 3:18)
  - a) Peace
  - b) Christians
  - c) The Word of God

#### **Chapter 4**

- 1) Where do wars and fights come from? (James 4:1)
  - a) Other religions
  - b) Your desires for pleasure
  - c) Satan
  
- 2) You do not have because \_\_\_\_\_. (James 4:2)
  - a) You do not ask
  - b) You do ask
  - c) Someone else asked already
  
- 3) You do not have because you ask \_\_\_\_\_. (James 4:3)
  - a) Amiss
  - b) Every time
  - c) In a right manner
  
- 4) What is the result of resist the devil? (James 4:7)
  - a) He will flee
  - b) He will never leave
  - c) He will repent and be converted
  
- 5) What happens to one who draws near to God? (James 4:8)
  - a) God will draw near to him
  - b) God will forsake you
  - c) You cannot draw near to God

- 6) What happens to one who humbles himself in the sight of God? (James 4:10)
  - a) Everyone will “walk all over you.”
  - b) God will lift you up
  - c) You will have pride
- 7) Christians are not to speak \_\_\_\_\_ of a brother. (James 4:11)
  - a) Lovingly
  - b) Evil
  - c) Burdensome
- 8) How many lawgivers are there? (James 4:12)
  - a) One
  - b) Two
  - c) Three
- 9) To what does James compare our life? (James 4:14)
  - a) Long
  - b) A vapor
  - c) A NASCAR Race
- 10) If you know to do good and do not do it, it is \_\_\_\_\_. (James 4:17)
  - a) Alright to do nothing
  - b) A sin
  - c) Nothing

## **Chapter 5**

- 1) Why are the rich to weep and to howl? (James 5:1)
  - a) The stock market fell again.
  - b) Their riches are corrupted
  - c) They won the lottery.
- 2) What have those to whom James wrote done to their workers? (James 5:4)
  - a) Given them their just wages
  - b) Keep back wages
  - c) Worked them too long
- 3) Be \_\_\_\_\_ until the coming of the Lord. (James 5:7)
  - a) Patient
  - b) Working
  - c) Worrisome
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ your hearts. (James 5:8)
  - a) Open
  - b) Establish
  - c) Break

- 5) Do not \_\_\_\_\_ against one another. (James 5:9)
- a) Judge
  - b) Work
  - c) Grumble
- 6) The Lord is very \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (James 5:11)
- a) Patient, kind
  - b) Compassionate, merciful
  - c) Patient, merciful
- 7) If anyone is suffering let them what? (James 5:13)
- a) Sing
  - b) Pray
  - c) Die
- 8) If anyone is sick they are to call for whom? (James 5:14)
- a) Elders
  - b) Deacons
  - c) Preacher
- 9) Who are we to confess our trespasses to? (James 5:16)
- a) Each other
  - b) No one
  - c) The unrighteous
- 10) Elijah prayer and it did not rain for how long? (James 5:17)
- a) One day
  - b) 96 months
  - c) 3 ½ years
- 11) He who turns a sinner from error does what? (James 5:19-20)
- a) Covers a multitude of sins and save s a soul from death.
  - b) Does evil to each one.
  - c) Nothing.