

Greater Pleasant Branch Baptist Church

Connect Learn Grow

Wednesday Bible Study - Theme: Pathways to Spirituality

Review of the Book of James

Lesson # 4 February 3, 2021-Prepared by: Pastor Artee Williams

2021 Bible Study Motto “ Simply put, we must practice the spiritual disciplines that form pathways to the heart of God and transform us into godly people. Training -not trying-is the key.” The Complete Book of Discipleship by Bill Hull

I. Subject: Primary area of trials-Finances- James 1: 9-11

II. Big Idea

In this section of chapter 1, James begins to deal with examples of trials. James addresses two areas that confront believers, poverty and prosperity. James assures his readers that spiritual wealth not material wealth is the basis for real rejoicing.

III. Key definitions

1. Rejoice- Means to boast ,brag about , to glory in . Rejoice is part of a command since it requires believers to exercise their will in order to continually rejoice. Rejoicing is not the normal human response to adverse circumstances, however, rejoicing is possible when believers are obedient to the will of God.

2. Low degree- Suggest a state of poverty. James is focusing on the physical and material condition of certain believers. the term can also mean lacking possessions or resources.

3. Exalted- To place in a high or powerful level, to be held in high regard.

4. Made low- Means to be humbled or having a low status . James is teaching that the rich man may experience humiliation as a result of persecution and loss of his wealth. The rich man must realize that wealth is temporary and of no eternal value.- James compares wealth to a flower that will fade away.

IV. Key thought

James concludes that neither the poverty or prosperity of a man is an indication of his relationship with God. Both the poor and rich must have a proper perspective regarding material things. Both the poor and prosperous must remember the sovereignty of God and the plan of God to use trials to produce “Spiritual Maturity “

V. Key spiritual principles

1. Trials make all believers “ Equally Dependent” on God and bring them to the same level , whether they are prosperous or living in poverty.
2. Both poor and prosperous can” Rejoice” that God is “ No respect or of persons” and they both have the blessed privilege of having a personal relationship with Christ.
3. Both the poor and prosperous are impacted by trials and both must come to realize that “ Genuine Happiness” depends on the “ True Riches of God’s grace”

VI. Key spiritual disciplines (although not specifically mentioned but included in the context of the teachings of James are the following Spiritual disciplines)

1. Faith in God.
2. Hope in God.
3. Patience in trials.
4. Wisdom.

VII. Application (now what)

Based on what James teaches in this lesson -what is your response to the following questions:

1. Do you continually ask God for wisdom?
2. Do you pray for wisdom to endure trials ?
3. Do you rejoice in trials or complain about them ?
4. How do you describe spiritual riches ?