

#1



JAMES #6: WHAT IS HAPPENING ON THE INSIDE

If we are going to understand what the Holy Spirit is telling us through James, we need to look at the book as a whole and not just the parts.

#2



In James 1, we are to stand with confidence

He starts by addressing the way we live and overcome through trials and temptations.

Rejoice in trials of various kinds.

What are our attitude, advantage, and assistance with trials!

Resist temptation.

He revealed the source of temptation, the way temptations advance, and the solution.

Respond to the Word of God.

He tells us how powerful and influential the Word of God is in our lives.

He encourages us to be receptive, responsive, and obedient to the Word of God.

#3



In James 2, we are to serve with compassion.

Accept others and be courteous, compassionate, and consistent.

Assist others by doing good.

#4



In James 3, we are to speak with care.

Control what comes out of our mouth.

Cultivate a humble, gracious, and peaceable thought life.

#5



In James 4, we are to submit to God with contrition and humility.

#6



In James 5, we are to share with concern.

Share our possessions, share in patience, and share in prayer.

Once you take this quick overview, you should notice that James is not just looking at the outward expressions.

He is going deeper than what is seen on the surface.

#7



He is probing the inner life.

He is looking for the work of the Holy Spirit in your life.

He does this by looking at everything we do and say.

He does it by causing us to examine our attitudes and motives.

He does it by digging at thoughts, speech, and actions.

These are not comfortable subjects.

Who wants to evaluate every word?

Who wants to challenge every activity and action?

It is easier to look at someone else who is weak during trial or temptation.

It is easier to challenge others prejudice or partiality.

It is less invasive to let the government or some compassion ministry help the hurting and poor.

It is complicated and challenging to control what you think and say.

#8



The Holy Spirit is using James to dig deep into each of us.

What is really happening in your spirit life?

Is the power of God working in you to produce a new kind of person?

Is compassion and faith growing within you?

Are you still struggling over the temptations and trials of life?

#9



God wants to get us up to the next level of faith.

He is prodding us toward the image and power of Christ.
He is examining us where we are uncomfortable.
He is developing His church.

So, James tells us to stop showing partiality.

The body of Christ consists of all races, and social classes.

People from every kind of background have been called into the fellowship of the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

We must learn to embrace them.

We must learn to forgive one another.

Then he tells us to get control of our thoughts and words.

It is imperative that we stop words that condemn and corrupt.

We must stop gossip and speaking ill of one another.

Just because it can be said does not mean it should be said.

We must make our tongue and words a conduit for good.

Let the words of your mouth and the meditations of your heart be acceptable to God.

James 3:5 Amplified Even so the tongue is a little member, and it can boast of great things. See how much wood or how great a forest a tiny spark can set ablaze!

Once the fire is kindled, it is difficult to stop the blaze.

Once the forest is burned, it takes years to recover.

#10



James is warning us to be careful of the external activities because they testify of what is going on inside.

We should do some self-evaluations.

Examine your heart.

Take note of the meditations of your mind.

Evaluate what you think about others.

Stop justifying thoughts, words, and activities that dishonor God.

Let the Holy Spirit reign in your heart.

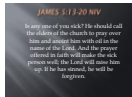
All of this brings us to the ministry that the Holy Spirit is looking for in our lives.

#11



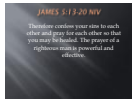
James 5:13-20 NIV Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise.

#12



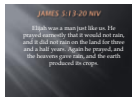
Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

#13



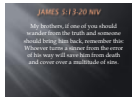
Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

#14



Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

#15



My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.