

# James

## Chapter Five

**FAITH COMES BY HEARING:** Read Chapter Five

### **SUMMARY: Verses 1-20**

1. James begins by addressing the rich of the day and how they fatten themselves on their own lusts and desires like cattle being fattened for the day of slaughter. James says that wealth, and the pursuit thereof, will never ward off God's judgment.
2. James calls for repentance because the self-indulged deeds have reached the ears of God. These verses show that God does keep a record of the deeds done on this earth.
3. James encourages the believers to keep the faith, be patient, and to keep their hearts clean for the Lord is soon to return. James states that the believers as well will be judged - not for eternal life but deeds done.
4. James gives examples of those who endured during trying times. He encourages them to endure because God is always faithful to His own regardless of how unbelievers are mistreating them. God always comes through. God always rewards those who remain faithful. God is always gracious and merciful.
5. God is at the end of all things. Never get discouraged in the middle of a trial. The middle may be the mess but the end will be the reward for God is always working to His end.
6. James discourages the flippant use of God's name. He then speaks of the power of praying faith when the righteous pray to the Father.
7. Prayer is a powerful weapon. Prayer is more than conversation. Prayer is the releasing of God's working.
8. God still heals today. Healing comes through the prayer of faith, anointing of oil by Elders, and the confession of sins among believers.
9. Though we all may struggle with our human emotions we should always press through in prayer to see the will and power of God manifest in and through us.
10. James concludes that we should seek out other believers who have wandered from God. The pull of lusts, selfish ambitions, persecution, and trials can cause some to shrink back from walking in Truth. James said we are to go after those who have drifted away. In doing so we can save our brothers and sisters from death that results from sin.

### **REFLECTION**

1. Why do you think James is so hard on the wealthy?
2. Why do you think so many Christians hate talking about a day of reckoning concerning God's judgment?
3. Why does it seem so hard to focus on the end result, God's reward, when going through a trying time?
4. Do you see flippant use of God's name in this generation? How would James address such?
5. How can prayer go from religious reputation to warfare?
6. Why is restoring a wandering brother or sister so important?

### **APPLICATION**

1. If your deeds were judged now what would you be guilty of? What deeds would you be praised for?
2. How do you keep yourself focused on God's reward vs. the mess of the trial?
3. How do you see your prayers being effective?
4. How did you keep yourself governed by prayer and faith rather than emotions?
5. How do you help Christians who have wandered from the Truth?

