

James 5:12-20

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Review

- Consider Trials a Joy – endured they bring perfection/completion (1:1-4)
- If you lack wisdom ask God in Faith (1:5-8)
- Glory in Humility (1:9-11)
- Persevere Trials/Temptation, cultivating implanted Word into Fruit (1:12-18)
- Grow in Word by *doing* it, marked by (1:19-27):
 - Care Others (2:1-13) – Not faith + negative action
 - Faith & Works (2:14-26) – Not faith & no action
 - Controlled Tongue (3:1-12)
 - Life of Holiness (3:13-5:6)

Review

- Grow in Word by *doing* it, marked by (1:19-27):
 - Care Others (2:1-13)
 - Controlled Tongue (3:1-12)
 - Life of Holiness (3:13-5:6)
 - The need for Wisdom from Above demonstrated by broken relationships (3:13-18)
 - Indwelling Sin and Adultery with World affects relationship with God; therefore Humble yourselves before God (4:1-10)
 - Areas we may need humbling in:
 - Placing ourselves above the law and judging others (4:11-12)
 - Presuming we are in full control of our life (4:13-16)
 - Presuming it's our call what is right (4:17)
 - Trusting in Riches (5:1-6)

Humility Failed & Humility Lived

- Placing ourselves above law and judging others (4:11-12)
 - Presuming we are in full control of our life (4:13-16)
 - Presuming it's our call what is "right" (4:17)
 - Trusting in Riches (5:1-6)
 - Waiting on God (5:7-11)
 - Letting our words always be known as Truth (5:12)
 - No matter the circumstance resting in God's Sovereignty with Praise and Prayer (5:13-18)
- Restoring others from Sin to the Truth (5:19-20)

James 5:12 – Our Words

- What does James command we NOT do?
- What does James command that we must do?
- Together (do not & do), what is James trying to convey?
 - We need to be consistently true – we shouldn't have to add qualifiers to justify our speech.
 - In 4:17, Inconsistent Action (knows what's right, but decides not to do it – places his priorities above God's). In 5:12, warned against Inconsistency between Words & Actions
 - Our Tongue is powerful (cf. 3:1-12) – misuse brings judgment (5:9 & 12)
- Is it ever OK to take an oath? Why or why not?

James 5:13-16 – Response to Life

- In 4:13-16, warned against living as if we are in full control of our life
- In 5:13 how should we live?
- Where are we directing our focus?

James 5:14-15 – An Example

- In 4:13-16 our life is but a vapor; where is certainty?
- Sickness – weakness; could be physical or worn out with a spiritual battle
- What should we [the sick person] do?
- Why would we call the elders?
- What is the significance of the oil?

James 5:16-18 – Therefore...

- Therefore...
 - Confess your sins – to whom & why?
 - Pray for one another – why?
- Example:
 - What was Elijah an example of (16b)?
 - What kind of man was Elijah?
 - How should this encourage us?

James 5:19-20 – Restoration

- In 4:11-12 warned against speaking against or judging others – putting ourselves above others
 - 2:1 “My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with *an attitude of* personal favoritism.”
- What is a person straying from here?
- Who is turning him back?
- What is the result?

Application

● Big Picture:

- God sends us Trials to Refine us & Grow us – Cultivate the Implanted Word
 - We Grow in the Word by Doing it
 - Focused on others
 - Lived out in Humility

● In Everything, Keep our Focus on God

- Take everything to Him rather than live in our own strength – there is Certainty in God
- Pray Personally, with/for Each other, & Prayer of Elders
- Prayer is powerful and effective
- With our Focus on God work to Restore others to God