

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Mount Zion A.M.E. Church of New Brunswick, NJ

08/02/2020

Faith & Wisdom James 1:1-11

Wisdom (noun)

- The ability to judge correctly and to follow the best course of action, based on **knowledge** and **understanding**
- Wisdom ONLY comes from the **experience of others**
 - Proverbs 3:7
 - Do not be wise **in your own eyes**;
Fear the LORD and depart from evil.

By Paul T. Bennett Church School Superintendent

Section Preview (Faith Wisdom through James)

- Will explore the sayings and teachings of James and their practical application in daily living

Background

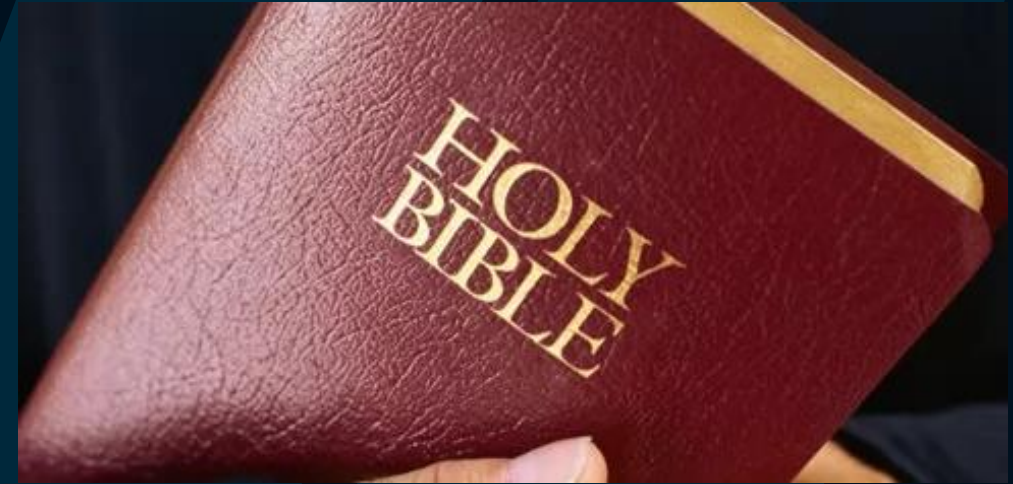
- James is the half-brother of Jesus Christ. He is the offspring of Joseph and Mary
- Jesus had 4 half-brothers, and an untold number of sisters.
- James' epistle is to the 'Diaspora' of Christian Jews living outside of Palestine
- The thrust of James' epistle is 'Faith in Action'
- Much of the epistle echoes the practical wisdom found in The Book of Proverbs

Lesson Text

James 1:1 - 6(NKJV)

Greeting to the Twelve Tribes

1 James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad:
Greetings.

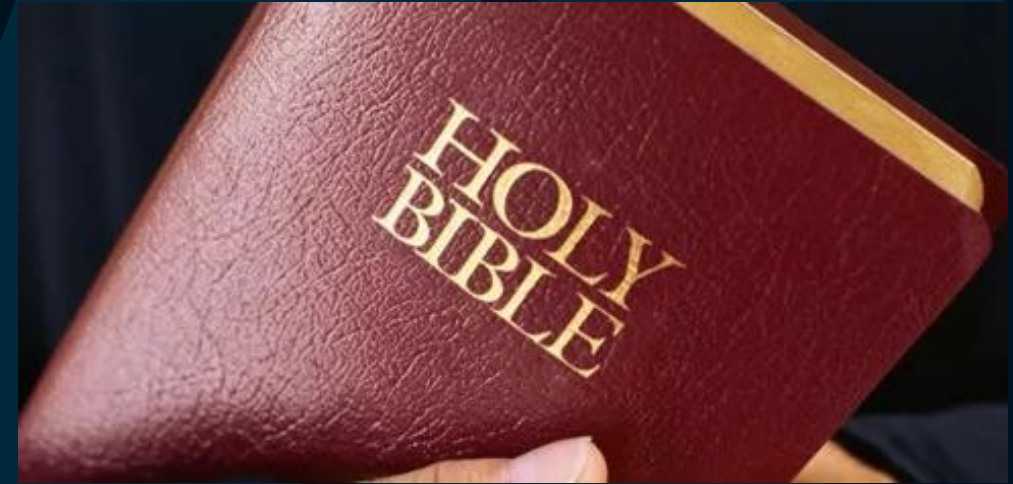


Lesson Text

James 1:2 – 8 (NKJV)

Profiting from Trials

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces ^[a]patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be ^[b]perfect and complete, lacking nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ *he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

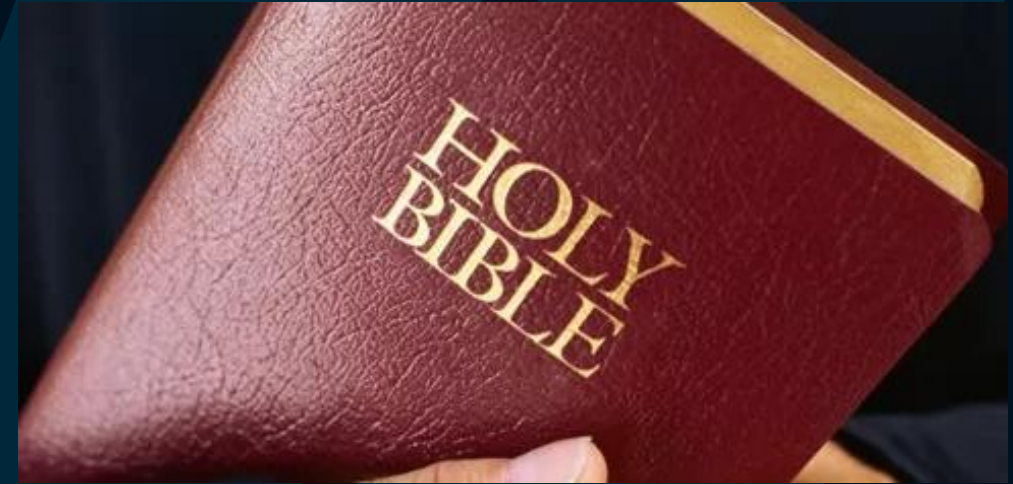


Lesson Text

James 1:9 – 12 (NKJV)

The Perspective of Rich and Poor

⁹ Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, ¹⁰ but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. ¹¹ For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.



Commentary:

Knowledge vs Understanding vs Wisdom

KNOWLEDGE	UNDERSTANDING	WISDOM
FACTS	MEANING	WHAT TO DO NEXT
INFORMATION	PRINCIPLES	APPLICATION
MEMORY	REASON	ACTION
SCHOLARS	TEACHERS	PRACTIONERS

Commentary: Scattered, but one

- From the days of Assyrian and Babylonian conquest and exile, to the uprisings out of Jerusalem for the persecuted Believers, Jews have lived through all parts of the Middle East and Europe as it is still today. Believers had to endure even more persecution from their own people

Acts 8:1-3 (NKJV)

Now Saul was consenting to his death.

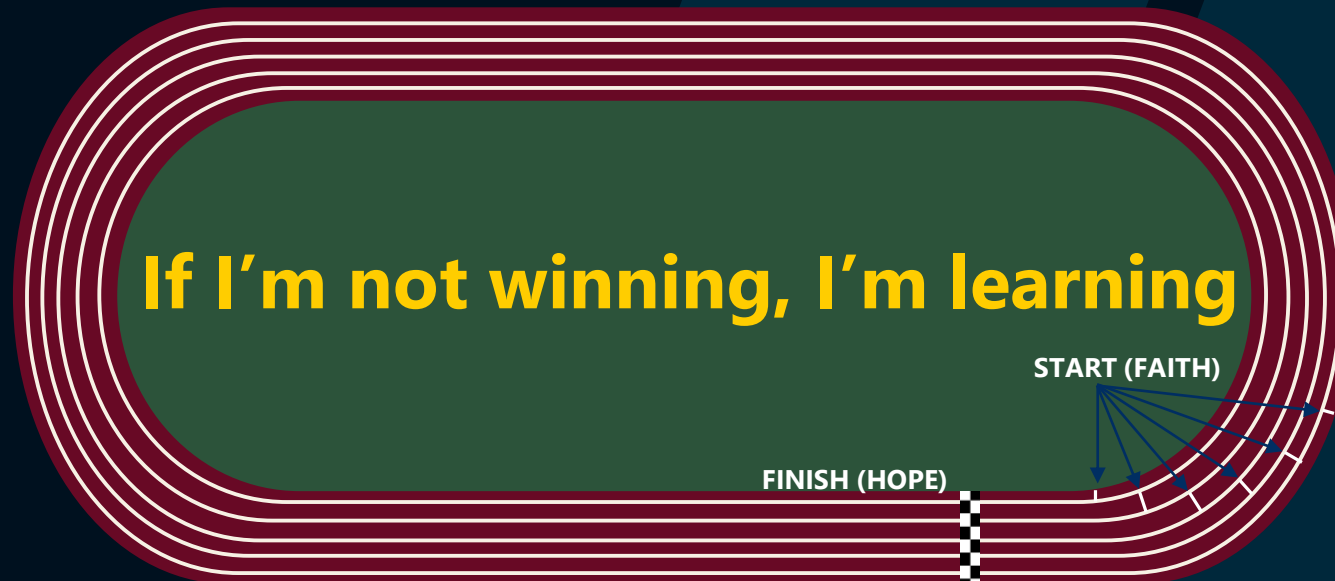
At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ² And devout men carried Stephen *to his burial*, and made great lamentation over him.

³ As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing *them* to prison.

Patience in Faith & Hope

Faith = The belief that God IS, and He's a rewarder of those who diligently seek him (Hebrews 11:6)

Hope = Faith + Sufferings + **Perseverance** + Character (Romans 5:1-5)



Commentary: Personal Relationships

- True wisdom comes from personal relationships
- Wisdom is described as a lady throughout Proverbs
- Jesus Christ is the personification of wisdom
 - **John 14:6**; Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
- No relationship..... No faith..... No wisdom can be exchanged
- Trust, loyalty and respect are the basis for all loving relationships
- **How loyal are you?**
- **Who are you following? Lady Wisdom or Lady Folly?**

Commentary: Humble or Humiliated?

The Humble

1. Understand the fear of the LORD is the beginning of all knowledge (Prov. 9:10)
2. Understand to be the greatest, you must serve the most (Matt: 23:11)
3. Rely on others to exalt them

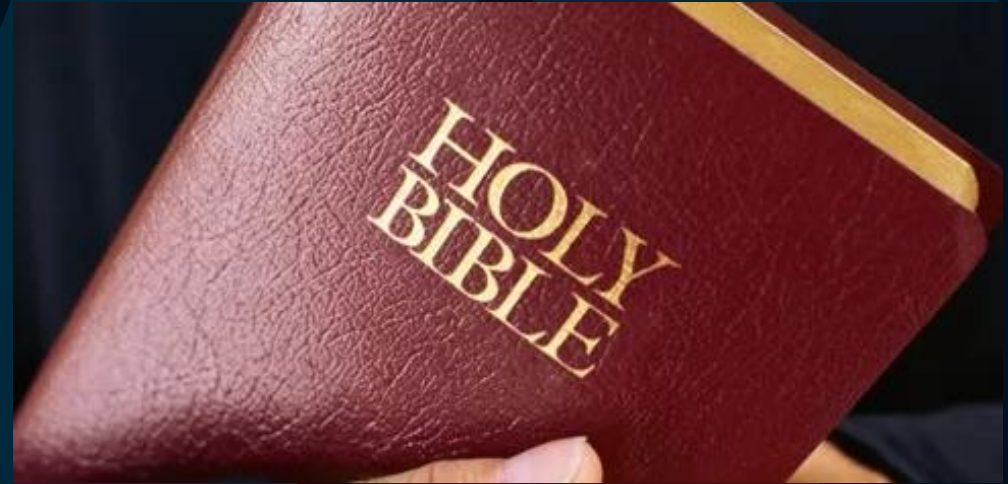
The Proud

1. Have no fear or reverence of anyone
2. Trust in their own achievements, money and status
3. Exalt themselves

The Rich or the Poor

1. Not immune to pride
2. Not limited to your economic system
3. The proud will be brought low – to their embarrassment and shame

Scripture References

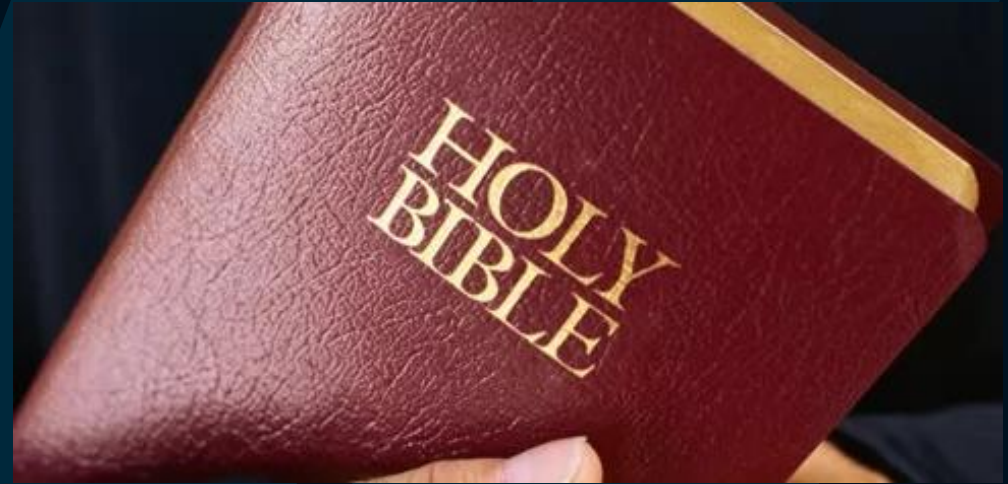


Matthew 7:7-12

Keep Asking, Seeking, Knocking

⁷ "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ⁹ Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! ¹² Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Scripture References



Luke 14:7-11

Take the Lowly Place

⁷ So He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noted how they chose the best places, saying to them: ⁸ "When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him; ⁹ and he who invited you and him come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For whoever exalts himself will be ^[c]humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Church School Creed & Benediction

CREED

Our Church School must grow & grow
And we must help to make it so
Every member a **Christian**
Every Christian a **worker**
Every worker **trained**
A worker that **will not be ashamed**
This we ask in Jesus' name

-AMEN

BENEDICTION

We have come
We have studied
We have learned
So until our next coming together
To study God's word
May His rich blessings reside with you
And may His Grace be eternally yours

-AMEN