

Come see us at:

November, 2007

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**"HAVE
FAITH
IN GOD"**

**A Study of the Book of
JAMES**

**Fit for Life
Youth Devotional**

About This Month's Devotional

The Word of God is as relevant to today's culture as it was when it was written. We are promised in 2 Peter 1:3, we read that God has given us "all things that pertain unto life and godliness." That pretty well covers it! **The Bible is sufficient to meet our every need today.** You can count on it.

As you cover the entire book verse by verse, it is a good idea to read the entire book at least once a week, if not once a day. **It's a short book** with only 108 verses, so it won't take you very long at all. This will help you to better understand where James is coming from in his writing. It would also be a good idea to do some background study on the book and it's writer, the half-brother of Jesus.

The days are not dated, so if you get off somehow, you can still keep going if you happen to get off the date. Take time to do the "Thank God for something He's done within the last 24 hours." Try to remember on your own to thank God in your prayer time. It works wonders in your life! It does us so much good to remember that we have a living Savior Who can't wait to shower us with blessings daily!

If You receive this and you're wondering how to get a hold of this devotional on a monthly basis, have your Pastor or youth worker e-mail me at dpeters@hagermanbaptist.org and I will send these devotional books through the e-mail.

Because of Calvary,
Dave Peters

Through the Bible in a Year

One of the most important things we could do in life is spend time in God's Word. Let's challenge one another to read through the Bible this year. Each month, we'll attach this Bible reading schedule put out by Faith Baptist Bible College. Encourage a friend to join you and keep each other accountable!

NOVEMBER

	<u>O.T.</u>		<u>Poetry</u>		<u>N.T.</u>	
1	Ezekiel	1,2	Song	5	James	2
2	Ezekiel	3,4	Song	6	James	3
3	Ezekiel	5,6				
4	Ezekiel	7,8				
5	Ezekiel	9,10	Song	7	James	4
6	Ezekiel	11,12	Song	7	James	5
7	Ezekiel	13,14	Song	8	1 Peter	1
8	Ezekiel	15,16				1 Peter 2
9	Ezekiel	17,18				1 Peter 3
10	Ezekiel	19,20				
11	Ezekiel	21,22				
12	Ezekiel	23,24				1 Peter 4
13	Ezekiel	25,26				1 Peter 5
14	Ezekiel	27,28				2 Peter 1
15	Ezekiel	29,30				2 Peter 2
16	Ezekiel	31,32				2 Peter 3
17	Ezekiel	33,34				
18	Ezekiel	35,36				
19	Ezekiel	37,38				1 John 1
20	Ezekiel	39,40				1 John 2
21	Ezekiel	41,42				1 John 3
22	Ezekiel	43,44				1 John 4
23	Ezekiel	45,46				1 John 5
24	Ezekiel	47,48				
25	Daniel	1,2				
26	Daniel	3,4				2 John 1
27	Daniel	5,6				3 John 1
28	Daniel	7,8				Jude 1
29	Daniel	9,10				Revelation 1
30	Daniel	11,12				Revelation 2

Overview of James

Passage: A Review of James

Theme: Checkup from the Neck Up

1. Am I becoming more and more patient in the testings of life?
2. Do I play with temptation or resist it from the start?
3. Do I find joy in studying the Word of God, or do I merely read it?
4. Are there any prejudices that shackle me?
5. Am I able to control my tongue?
6. Am I a peacemaker rather than a troublemaker? Do people come to me for spiritual wisdom?
7. Am I a friend of God or a friend of the world?
8. Do I make plans without considering the will of God?
9. Am I selfish when it comes to money?
10. Do I naturally depend on prayer when I find myself in trouble?
11. Am I the kind of person others seek for prayer support?
12. What is my attitude toward the wandering brother? Do I criticize and gossip, or do I seek to restore him in love?

Day 1

Passage: James 1:1-4

Theme: Attitude in Trials

Explore It:

- Who wrote James and to whom?
- What attitude is to be displayed when encountering trials?
- What is produced when our faith is tested?

Get it:

- What trials and difficulties have you experienced in your life?
- What good has ever come out of a difficult situation in your life?
- Remember, "Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you respond to what happens to you."
- Thank God for something He's done within the last 24 hours.

Day 2

Passage: James 1:3-4

Theme: Purpose of Trials

Explore It:

- What's the first word of v. 3? How is that different than "feeling?"
- What do we know in v. 3?
- What is the result of patience (v. 4)?

Get it:

- Do you have need of patience? What example can you give?
- How could trials make you more patient and more equipped for life?
- Thank God for something He's done within the last 24 hours.

Day 3

Passage: James 1:5-6

Theme: How to get Wisdom

Explore It:

- If you lack wisdom, what are you supposed to do?
- Will God give it to you?
- According to this verse, how generous is God's giving of wisdom?

Get it:

- Do you need wisdom in an area? What keeps you from asking?

- Read 1 Kings 3:5-15. What did Solomon ask for? What did God promise because of that request?

- Thank God for something He's done within the last 24 hours.

Day 4

Passage: James 1:6-8

Theme: Uncertain Praying

Explore It:

- How are you to pray? How are you not to pray?
- If you waver in your faith, what can you expect as a result?
- Describe what it says about a double-minded man:

Get it:

- Is your prayer life solid – trusting God completely – or like the wave of the sea and tossed? (consider Romans 10:17 for a solution)

- Write down the things you'd like to see changed in your life:

- Thank God for something He's done within the last 24 hours.

Day 29

Passage: James 5:16-18

Theme: Powerful Praying

Explore It:

- What is the result of confession and prayer?
- Who is the example? What was his prayer? (See 1 Kings 17-18)
- What does it imply about his faith?

Get it:

- What does it mean "effectual, fervent prayer?"

- Does this characterize your prayer life? What needs to change?

- Thank God for something He's done within the last 24 hours.

Day 30

Passage: James 5:19-20

Theme:

Explore It:

- When it says "err from the truth," what is the truth? (See Jn. 17:17)
- What does "convert" mean? You may have to use the dictionary.
- What's the result of this conversion?

Get it:

- Who do you know that's "erring from the truth?" What can you do?

- Has someone ever done that for you? When?

- Thank God for something He's done within the last 24 hours.

Day 27

Passage: James 5:7-12

Theme: Be Patient!

Explore It:

- How many times is the “coming of the Lord” mentioned here?
- Why is that phrase significant to having patience?
- Who should we consider when we feel like we’re suffering?

Get it:

- Patience means to “stand fast when you’d like to run away.” When was the last time you felt like that? What do you think God was trying to teach you through that situation?

- Can we be joyful through trials? How?

- Thank God for something He’s done within the last 24 hours.

Day 28

Passage: James 5:13-15

Theme: Uncertain Praying

Explore It:

- What are we to do when we’re “afflicted?”
- What are we to do when we’re happy?
- What might sin have to do with being sick? (15)

Get it:

- Being “afflicted” means “suffering in difficult circumstances.” Often times, we complain, or get jealous about other’s light load, or blame the Lord. But we need to pray. Are you going through rough waters? Pray!
- How about healing the sick? This passage is referring to someone who is sick because of sin in their life, and God chose to deal with them in this way. This is not a remedy for all who get sick, however. But look at what happens when concerned people pray! Pray for one another!!!

- Thank God for something He’s done within the last 24 hours.

Day 5

Passage: James 1:9-12

Theme: Perception of Trials

Explore It:

- Read v. 9 and apply it to James 4:10:
- How does v. 10 relate to James 4:10?
- What picture is used to describe the riches of a man?

Get it:

- Are you trusting money and material things more than God?

- After enduring temptation, what does God promise to give?

- How should that affect our thinking?

- Thank God for something He’s done within the last 24 hours.

Day 6

Passage: James 1:13-16

Theme: How is a Man Tempted?

Explore It:

- What can no man say? Why?
- Whose lust is a man enticed by?
- What is the end result?

Get it:

- Often, we have a tendency to think that our “little sin” isn’t so bad, so we don’t do anything about it right away. What’s the danger of that?

- Do you have any unconfessed sin to repent of? DO IT NOW!!!

- Thank God for something He’s done within the last 24 hours.

Day 7

Passage: James 1:17-18

Theme: God Gives Great Gifts!!!

Explore It:

- Where does every good & perfect gift come from?
- What words are used to describe God?
- By what tool did He “begat” us, or make us His own?

Get it:

- Make a small list of the great gifts God has given you:

- “No variableness, neither shadow of turning” means that God will not ever change – He’s the same yesterday, today, and forever! Praise Him for that right now!

- Thank God for something He’s done within the last 24 hours.

Day 8

Passage: James 1:19-21

Theme: The Christian’s Temper

Explore It:

- We are urged to do three things. List and explain them:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- We are to lay aside filthiness, etc., and receive what?

Get it:

- Do you get angry? Do you speak before you listen? Explain:

- The key, as we’ll learn tomorrow, is to be in God’s Word, and then apply it to our lives. Are you regularly studying God’s Word? How can you improve?

- Thank God for something He’s done within the last 24 hours.

Day 25

Passage: James 4:13-17

Theme: Knowing God’s Will

Explore It: 3 Attitudes toward God’s will:

- Ignoring God’s Will (13-14,16)
- Disobeying God’s Will (17)
- Obeying God’s Will (15)

Get it:

- Did you know that the will of God is tailor-made to fit you? Did you know God has a wonderful plan for your life? It requires a process to really understand what God’s will is. Follow these steps in God’s Word:

1. Know God’s Will (Acts 22:14; John 7:17) There are certain things I know cannot be His will.
 2. We must be filled with the knowledge of His will (Col.1:9). He wants us to be consumed in finding His perfect will for our lives.
 3. God wants us to understand His will (Eph. 5:17). We have the privilege of knowing why God does what He does (John 15:15)
 4. We must also prove God’s will (Rom 12:2). This means to prove by experience. We learn to determine it by working at it.
 5. We must do God’s will from the heart (Eph. 6:6). When we love God, we love to do His wishes.
- Thank God for something He’s done within the last 24 hours.

Day 26

Passage: James 5:1-6

Theme: The Problem of Wealth

Explore It:

- God doesn’t punish people just for being rich, but these people were misusing their wealth in 3 ways:
 1. They were defrauding their employees by not paying them (4)
 2. They lived in wanton pleasure – luxury is waste, and sinful (5)
 3. They unjustly controlled the court system through bribes, etc. (6)

Get it:

- Why do you think man strives so much for riches?

- Evaluate your views on material things. What thoughts should you have toward money and spending?

- Thank God for something He’s done within the last 24 hours.

Day 23

Passage: James 4:7-10

Theme: Drawing Near to God

Explore It:

- When does the devil flee from us? What does that mean?
- When will God draw near to me?
- What 2 things are we to do in order to be clean?

Get it:

- Are you completely submitted to God in every area? What areas need some attention?

- Remember a time that you and God were very close? What needs to happen to get back to that point?

- Thank God for something He's done within the last 24 hours.

Day 24

Passage: James 4:1,11-12

Theme: Ungodly Wars

Explore It:

- Back in verse 1, what was the cause for wars among us?
- Read Psalm 133:1. How should we deal with other believers?
- Read John 17:21. What was Christ's prayer for His disciples?

Get it:

- Someone once told me, "We are not to judge, but we are to be fruit inspectors." We need to discern between the 2. How can we have concern for other's spiritually without casting judgment on one another?

- How can you add to the strength of your church or youth group?

- Thank God for something He's done within the last 24 hours.

Day 9

Passage: James 1:22-24

Theme: Hearers AND Doers

Explore It:

- How do we deceive ourselves?
- What example is given of the hearer only?
- Did the man change any? Why?

Get it:

- It has been said that it doesn't matter how much you get into the Word, but how much the Word gets into you. What does that mean?

- Do you see changes in your life for the better? If not, chances are you're not applying God's Word. Don't deceive yourself – that's the worst deception of all. Allow the Word of God to change your life. Start today!

- Thank God for something He's done within the last 24 hours.

Day 10

Passage: James 1:25-27

Theme: The Perfect Law of Liberty

Explore It:

- What promise is given to the one who meditates on God's Word?
- What signs are there of a man whose walk is empty? (v.26)
- How did James describe "true religion?"

Get it:

- Read John 8:32 & 36. How do these relate to v.25?

- How will you keep yourself "unspotted from the world" this week?

- Thank God for something He's done within the last 24 hours.

Day 11

Passage: James 2:1-3

Theme: Have No Prejudice

Explore It:

- Did Christ have prejudice? How are we then most like Christ?
- How did they treat the rich person?
- How about the poor person?

Get it:

- Much is said today about racism. How should a Christian respond?
- Are you guilty of showing favoritism toward classes of people?
- Thank God for something He's done within the last 24 hours.

Day 12

Passage: James 2:4-6

Theme: Thoughts on Favoritism

Explore It:

- How does one's favoritism show the error of one's value system?
- How does God view the poor?
- What do rich men often do to the poor? How?

Get it:

- Why do you think that, generally, poor people are richer in faith?
- What could be some problems of favoritism in a youth group? How about yours?
- Thank God for something He's done within the last 24 hours.

Day 21

Passage: James 4:1-3

Theme: When Prayer Doesn't Work

Explore It:

- What is the root cause of fights and quarrels? (1)
- Why do people not have what they want? (2)
- What wrong motive do people have when they pray? (3)

Get it:

- Do you know of people that you're feuding with? This will affect your praying. Stop now and clear those things up & read Psalm 66:18.
- Has your praying been selfish? Reevaluate and pray God's way!
- Thank God for something He's done within the last 24 hours.

Day 22

Passage: James 4:4-6

Theme: Who Do You Love?

Explore It:

- If I am a friend of the world, what does that make me? (4)
- The "spirit that dwells in us" is our flesh. What does it do? (5)
- Who does God give grace to? (6)

Get it:

- It's impossible to love the world and God at the same time (see also 1 John 2:15 and Matthew 6:24). Is there any indication that you love the world?
- State here and now how you would like things to change!
- Thank God for something He's done within the last 24 hours.

Day 19

Passage: James 3:13-16

Theme: Where's the Wise Guy?

Explore It:

- How can a person demonstrate wisdom and understanding? (13)
- How can we tell if a person is lacking wisdom? (14)
- Where does the "wisdom" of a bitter person come from? (15)

Get it:

- What damage can bitterness and envy cause a person?
- What attitudes do you have that conflict with God's wisdom?
- Thank God for something He's done within the last 24 hours.

Day 20

Passage: James 3:17-18

Theme: Rewards of Wisdom

Explore It:

- How is the wisdom from God different from man's?
- Read and compare Gal. 5:22-23 and Phil. 4:8 with this passage.
- What is the end result of such wisdom? (18)

Get it:

- In which way have you been living your life – your way (v.13-16) or God's way (v.17-18)?
- Change begins with confession and commitment. Are you ready to trade your wisdom for God's? Remember Proverbs 14:12!
- Thank God for something He's done within the last 24 hours.

Day 13

Passage: James 2:7-9

Theme: Loving Like Christ

Explore It:

- Read vs.4-9. What's one way people blaspheme God's name?
- How would you fulfill the "royal law?"
- If we have partiality, what are we considered by God?

Get it:

- The greatest command according to Christ was to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. What was the second? (Matt. 22:37-40)
- How can you live this out today?
- Thank God for something He's done within the last 24 hours.

Day 14

Passage: James 2:10-13

Theme: Sin is Sin!

Explore It:

- Are some sins worse than others in God's eyes? I don't think so. But there are more severe consequences for some than others. In other words, God looks at sin as being sin – that which caused Christ to go to Calvary and pay the penalty for. When I sin, I am saying to myself, "Look, it's not as bad as ..." So I justify "little sins" in my life that should not be tolerated. Christ would have had to die on Calvary's cross for "just one little sin" that I committed.

Get it:

- How should I view my "little sin?"
- What sin do I need to confess today to get right with God?
- Thank God for something He's done within the last 24 hours.

Day 15

Passage: James 2:14-26

Theme: Faith or Works?

Explore It:

- There are 3 different kinds of faith considered here: 1) Dead faith – involves only the intellect; 2) Demonic faith – involves the intellect and emotion; 3) Dynamic faith – intellect & emotion, but also the will. The mind understands the truth, the heart desires the truth, but the will acts upon the truth. This is the faith of the true believer. The heart of this passage is that real faith really works. This passage is not implying that you must do works in order to get to heaven, but that if you truly had saving faith, you would naturally do works for God.

Get it:

- Would you be viewed by others as one who had “faith without works,” in other words are there actions of your Christian life that give evidence of your faith? What are they?

- D.L. Moody once said, “Every Bible should be bound in shoe leather.” Make sure you are living out your faith in Christ!

- Thank God for something He’s done within the last 24 hours.

Day 16

Passage: James 3:1-4

Theme: Sins of the Tongue

Explore It:

- What is the warning given to those who want to teach? (1)

- What can be said about the power of our words? (2)

- What is the purpose of a horse’s bit or a ship’s rudder? (3)

Get it:

- If you taped all yesterday’s conversations, what words would you want to erase?

- Examine your speech. Would you be guilty of being a gossip? Do you use words only to build, or also to tear down?

- Thank God for something He’s done within the last 24 hours.

Day 17

Passage: James 3:5-8

Theme: Taming the Tongue

Explore It:

- What is the tongue compared to in verses 5-6?

- What is the tongue compared to in verse 7?

- What is the tongue full of? (8)

Get it:

- Did you ever stop to consider that without God’s help, you can’t change the tongue?

- As in all other habits, we must stop and confess our misuse of the tongue as sin, and ask God for help in controlling it. Also, whoever we have sinned against with our tongue, we need to go to them and make things right. Then we’ll start seeing God give us victory over it!

- Thank God for something He’s done within the last 24 hours.

Day 18

Passage: James 3:9-12

Theme: Use of the Tongue

Explore It:

- In what way are we inconsistent with our tongues? (9-10)

- What illustrations are used to condemn sins of the tongue? (11-12)

- What can a spring or fig tree teach us about our speech?

Get it:

- What needs to be removed from your tongue in order to please God today?

- In what way can you encourage someone today?

- Thank God for something He’s done within the last 24 hours.