



Perfecting Faith: The Book of James

Keeping the Faith *AFTER* the Trials and Temptations

Staying the Course

After enduring trials and temptations we are often susceptible to wandering from God's path. James shows us God's way *after* the trials and temptations.

1. Get Your Soul On Course *James 1:19-20*

Dealing with trials and temptations can be emotionally draining. James isolates three critical areas of concern:

- Hearing: If you are quick to hear you are slow to speak
- Speaking: And if slow to speak you will be slow to anger
- Anger: If you are slow to anger—the sun will go down before it gets out of control.
 - Anger: A settled or abiding condition of the mind with a view to take revenge! A lasting active emotion.

Psa 4:4; Pro 16:32

And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil." *Eph 4:26-27 NLT*

2. Get on Course with God's Word *James 1:21-25*

Since my anger does not produce the righteousness of God I need to...prepare my heart for God's Word.

- Put aside: All filthiness (every form of spiritual, mental or physical impurity)
- Receive: The implanted Word! A sacred deposit—the Logos and Rhema of God.
- Prove: The Word must become flesh in our lives. :22
 - Have you forgotten the Word? :23-24
 - The blessing of doing God's Word! :25

3. Get on Course with Others *James 1:26-27*

Religion here means the external patterns of behavior connected with religious belief. It means the *outer expression of belief* in worship and service rather than the *doctrines believed*.

Let your FAITH [religion] show up...

- In your speech :26
 - By faith let God control your speech! Bless others by what you say to them.
- In true service :27
 - By faith care for others in need—especially widows and orphans.
- In separation from the world :27
 - By faith let your life bless others.

Am I my brother's keeper? By Oswald Chambers
See back of handout!

Blessed in Doing

James 1:19-27

1. Get Your Soul On Course

:19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be **swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath** [*anger*];

:20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

2. Get on Course With the Word

:21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

:23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;

:24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

:25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

3. Get on Course with Others

:26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this:

- to visit orphans and widows in their trouble,
- *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

“Am I My Brother’s Keeper?”

Oswald Chambers

“None of us lives to himself ...” (*Romans 14:7*)

Has it ever dawned on you that you are responsible spiritually to God for other people? For instance, if I allow any turning away from God in my private life, everyone around me suffers.

We “sit *together* in the heavenly places ...” (*Ephesians 2:6*). “If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it ...”

(*1 Corinthians 12:26*). If you allow physical selfishness, mental carelessness, moral insensitivity, or spiritual weakness, everyone in contact with you will suffer. But you ask, “Who is sufficient to be able to live up to such a lofty standard?” “Our sufficiency is from God ...” and God alone (*2 Corinthians 3:5*).

“You shall be witnesses to Me ...” (*Acts 1:8*). How many of us are willing to spend every bit of our nervous, mental, moral, and spiritual energy for Jesus Christ? That is what God means when He uses the word *witness*.

But it takes time, so be patient with yourself. Why has God left us on the earth? Is it simply to be saved and sanctified? No, it is to be at work in service to Him. Am I willing to be broken bread and poured-out wine for Him?

Am I willing to be of no value to this age or this life except for one purpose and one alone—to be used to disciple men and women to the Lord Jesus Christ. My life of service to God is the way I say “thank you” to Him for His inexpressibly wonderful salvation.

Remember, it is quite possible for God to set any of us aside if we refuse to be of service to Him—“... lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified” (*1 Corinthians 9:27*).

My Utmost for His Highest

February 15

Oswald Chambers 1874-1917