**Orientation**: aligning our thinking to a reality

It's not until we serve God His way, that it applies to eternal value.

We may be about all kinds of spiritual activity, but God isn't interested if it's not His way. It's just human viewpoint thinking.

# James

Suggested key memory verse

**1 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV)**
**13** No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

**2350** πειρασμός (**peirasmos**) ἐπί (ἐπό), ὁ (ἡ): n masc, ☞ Str 3986; TDNT 6:23—1. LN 37.46 temptation, submit another to a test, to learn the true nature or character of (Job 1:2; 1Pe 4:12); 2. LN 88.308 temptation, trial, given for the purpose to make one stumble (Lk 4:13; Ac 15:39 v/. NASB)

10:13-18

**James 1:5-6 (NKJV)**
**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.

## Maturing to The deep things of God

▼ 1.

**Developing endurance:**

**The writer of this epistle recognizes that in our spiritual growth we advance through various forms of testing.**

As we go through these situations of tests we get an opportunity to apply doctrine,

as we apply doctrine we then persevere and endure, and the result of that is that we progress towards maturity in our spiritual life.

a.

**James 1:2–4 (NKJV)**
**2** My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,
**3** knowing that the testing of your faith produces **patience**.
**4** But let **patience** have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

**2594** ὑπομονή (**hypomonē**), ἡς (ἀπό), ἡ (ἀπό): n fem, ☞ Str 3588; TDNT 4:581—LN 25.174 endurance, perseverance, patience (Lk 8:15; 21:19; Ro 2:7; 5:3; 8:25; 15:4; 2Co 6:4; 1Ti 6:11; 2Ti 3:10; Heb 12:1; Jas 1:3)

b.

The key to growing to maturity through the filling of the Holy Spirit is found in James's use of this word:

Perseverance, Endurance, It has the idea of a longstanding or continuous obedience in the same direction.

This is our goal if we are going to mature spiritually

▼ 2.

## The deep things of God

**James 1:5–6 (NKJV)**
**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.

▼ a.

**1 Corinthians 2:9–11 (NKJV)**
**9** But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

We must be in fellowship with the Holy Spirit

**10** But God has revealed them to us **through His Spirit**. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, **the deep things of God**.
**11** For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

b.

**When we understand the teachings of God's word through the filling of the Holy Spirit, we call this "academic knowledge".**

**We then receive it by means of faith, the Holy Spirit then transfers it automatically to the deepest recesses of our intellect called in the Greek the heart.**

**Hebrews 3:12 (NKJV)**
**12** Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

**This is the innermost part of our soul where our thinking, our deepest thoughts and convictions are held.**

**The circulation of these thoughts the Bible calls *meditation***

**2588** καρδία (**kardía**), ἡς (ἀπό), ἡ (ἀπό): n fem, ☞ Str 4213; TDNT 3:605—1. LN 26.3 inner self, inner man, the literal body part called the "heart", this is a reference to the areas of the inner self, including: the volition, the mind, the desires, etc., though the facility of the intellect may be slightly more emphasized (Mt 15:19; Lk 6:45 v/.); 2. LN 60.14 inside, for inside something (Mt 12:40), note: see LN 8.56 for a fuller treatment of the lexical units.
*Source: Louw, J. P. & Nida, E. A. Greek-English Lexicon of the Septuagint: Based on Jeremias, Gerhard/Tjeder Schmoller's Lexicon, ed.; Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.*

c.

Contrasting the progressive successful believer, with the unsuccessful believer

**The successful believer:**

**Psalm 1:1–6 (NKJV)**
**1** Blessed is the man Who walks not in **the counsel of the ungodly**, Nor **stands in the path of sinners**, Nor **sits in the seat of the scornful**.

Progression of the foolish

**2** But his **delight** is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he **meditates** day and night.

**For the progressing, maturing believer: his mental attitude towards God's word is positive, there's something enjoyable in his pursuit of learning God's word. He is excited about it, it's not a drudgery, he's enthusiastic and motivated about Bible study learning Bible doctrine.**

**"His delight is in the law of the Lord", that's Bible doctrine.**

**He meditates, he focuses his thinking on God's word; not every other morning, or third or fourth or fifth day.**

**He meditates day and night.**
**The author uses these two opposites with the intention that everything in between is included.**

You focus on life as a test, as a string of tests, of opportunities to apply the doctrine in your soul. You are conscious about doctrine. As it is circulating in your conscious mind you are aware of it, you are thinking about it, you are focusing on it and you are letting God's Word sift through your mind continually throughout the day. You make decisions and you are thinking about what God's Word says about them and how you can apply God's Word to the situation

So for this advancing believer, stability in his life is the result.

**3** He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

This isn't material prosperity. The idea is that you are successful in the endeavors of life?

And you have success because you have doctrine in your soul,

You have wisdom that plays itself out in the decision-making process so that you do not make foolish decisions which end up producing calamitous circumstances and bring about self-induced misery.

**Instead**, you make wise decisions and the result is that you have success in achieving what you attempt to do because:

you're not operating on the same set of principles, that the world is.

you understand your limitations,

you understand who God is,

you are submitted to the sovereignty of God in the process,

you are filled with the Holy Spirit,

and you are following His leadership and are walking with Him.

So the result is that you have success in your life. It is not success as man counts success, which is measured by your bank account or your position in the company, but it is determined by your spiritual health.

**The unsuccessful unstable believer:**

**4** The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.

They are unstable. We see this same imagery picked up by James when he contrasts the one who asks in faith for wisdom.

**James 1:5–8 (NKJV)**
**5** 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.

**5** Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
**6** For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

▼ 3.

**The judgment seat of Christ:** It's not to determine where we are going to spend eternity, but rather how we spend eternity.

a.

**The principle for eternal habitation:**

**1 Corinthians 3:10–15 (NKJV)**
**10** According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.
**11** For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
**12** Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,
**13** each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.
**14** If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.
**15** If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

**As a young child develops, he or she develops capacity to appreciate his surroundings.**

**The more we develop as a believer, we increase our capacity to appreciate spiritual things which are related to eternity.**

**The less we develop as a believer, in kind we are unable to appreciate the deeper spiritual realities related to eternity.**

**God wants us to be able to appreciate all the wonders and beauties of the new heavens and the new earth, and the depth of the riches that he wants to bestow upon us for our eternal existence.**

**Just as many people in this natural world never develop the capacity to completely function in the real world; so to in like manner, the unsuccessful believers will never develop the capacity to grasp the exceeding great and precious promises that God has given for this life, so that he can be a partaker of the divine nature, escaping the corruption that's in the world through lust. And thus will never enjoy the greater capacity to appreciate God's wonders throughout all eternity.**

4.

**Deuteronomy 4:1–9 (NKJV)**
**1** "Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to **observe**, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you.

**2 You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.**

**3** Your eyes have seen what the Lord did at Baal Peor; for the Lord your God has destroyed from among you all the men who followed Baal of Peor.
**4 But you who held fast to the Lord your God** are alive today, every one of you.

**5** "Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, **just as the Lord my God commanded me**, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess.

**6** Therefore **be careful to observe them**; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'

**7** "For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the Lord our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him?
**8** And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?

**9** Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And **teach them to your children and your grandchildren.**