

Doer of the Word: Faith in Action
Spring 2021
Pastor Adam Pilota



OBEDIENCE IS ACTION

Session 1
Book of James Overview
Trying of Your Faith

Key Scripture Jas 1:2-4

“² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³ Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴ But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing” (KJV).

“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” (NKJV)

Instructional Overview

Big Ideas

- The teachings of Christ, as prescribed in James, strengthen the Body of Christ and illustrate how comprehending Jesus' teachings strengthens their faith and walk with Christ.
- A faith-filled life requires obedience to the Word.

Essential Questions

- How does faith influence the Christ follower as a doer of the Word?
- What can contemporary believers learn about proper responses to the trials of their faith from the Book of James?

Learning Outcomes

- Analyze the meaning of being a doer of the Word diagramming a concept map showing six keywords
- Identify actions found in Jas 1:2-4 and Rom 5:4 that shape how believers address life's challenges by answering three strategic questions in small groups

NOTE: Students will need to understand and apply either the Blue Letter Bible or E-Sword app to pass this class. Further, please bring either your mobile, tablet, or laptop to exegete word studies in class.

Group Compilation

Directions:

- Using the distributed, resource materials, work in groups as assigned to research the Book of James' background.
- Write what you learn on chart paper in bullets.
- Cite your source of information APA style.
- Report out.

Group 1: Author

Group 2: Audience

Group 3: Purpose (Write key two points) & Style

Wrap Up Lecture

Purpose

- Admonished readers to practice their faith as doers of the Word
- Emphasized proper response to suffering and trials

Theme

Real faith produces genuine stability, humility, love, and patience

Outline (Faith in action as doers of the Word: obedience under adversity)

Introduction (1:1)
Patience in Trials (1:2-19a)
Doing the Word (1:19a-3:18)
Pride and Worldliness Rebukes (4:1-17)
Rich Oppressors Rebuked (5:1-6)
Encouragement in View of the Coming of the Lord (5:7-20)

Reflections (Pairs)

Directions

1. Define in your own words what you think faith means in Jas 1:3.
2. Define faith in Jas 1:3 using the context principle.

Context Principle of Hermeneutics

Hermeneutics deals with the field of biblical study. One of hermeneutics' key principles includes the *context principle*. Context connects thoughts running through a portion or whole of Scripture to reveal the original intent of God's truth. One interprets a word or verse keeping in mind the surrounding content, historical, and cultural contexts of the passage, book, testament, and Bible. The God-inspired text speaks for itself in context, rather than the reader injecting ideas into the text.

Cultural	<p>Who?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scattered? (Jas 1:1b-See Appendix 1: Diaspora Chart) • My brethren? (1:2a) Inclusive to male and female <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thought One: Brothers and sisters Jas 1:1; 1:2a (cf. Lev 25:46; Deut 15:3; Acts 2:29; Rom 9:3) -OR- ○ Thought Two: Brotherhood community –Matt 25:40, Jas 1:9, 16; 2:2
Historical	<p>What?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who scattered them? (1:1) Why scattered? From where to where? • What divers temptations (trials) did they face? (2:b)
Content	<p>Why?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did James command the scattered to “count (or consider) it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations”? What purpose followed the command count? • What does faith mean in the context of “trying of your faith”? (First of fourteen instances of faith in James. Not all occurrences mean the same.) • How does the Blue Letter Bible define it in Jas 1:3?
Full Meaning of Faith	<p>Gloss (Basic from BLB.org) In Context (FULL)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BREAK 8-8:10pm</p>

Follow-Up Discussion

Questions:

How does your point of view influence what you believe about faith?

How does the contextual definition of faith differ from your personal?

In what ways can you apply faith's contextual meaning to the contemporary Christian?

Contextual Word Study

In Jas 1:2, the author tells the scattered messianic Christians, to consider it pure joy when temptation surrounded them. James not only spoke of choices, but also the attitudes and mindset toward the inevitable temptations and trials of life. The author maintained trials as one of his central temptations (trials) as one of the encyclical's central themes (cf. 2:1-7; 4:13-17; 5:1-6).

Directions

Working in pairs at the table, follow the below steps.

- Carefully read the assigned verse/s.
- Look up key words/phrases in Blue Letter Bible or Bible Hub, write their transliteration, and then the beginning interpretation with a gloss definition (initial meaning).
- For those same words, write the full definition in context by verse, chapter, and book.
- Answer the questions based on your assigned verse.
- On chart paper: write the assigned verse cite, key words/phrases, full definition, and response to questions in paragraph form.

Verses: Jas 1:2-4: joy, divers temptation, trying of your faith, worketh patience, perfect work, and perfect

(SEE VERSE APPENDIX—All groups work on the same verse)

Questions to Answer:

- How can believers in Christ remain joyful when faced with internal and external temptations?
- In what ways do divers temptations work together with faith?
- How does the trying of your faith affect you as well as the community of believers?
- James refers to patience as a product of faith. He connects faith with work/deed/product. What does faith in action mean in Jas 1:2-4?

Directions

- Tell one thing you learned tonight you didn't know before?
- What perceptions, speech, and actions must a believer practice during the trials of one's faith? Be specific when you describe it.

Notes:

Doer of the Word, Spring 2021— Homework, Session 1
Homework—Due April 8, 2021

- E-mail your homework to Pastor Adam (pilotaadam279@gmail.com) Dr. Paron (janparon@gmail.com).
- You will find all class materials on the ANLI website (www.allnationsleadershipinstitute.com) under the Student Login on the Student Services page. Password: ANLIstudent. Download exegesis chart from the website. Do not type your own.
- Following APA format and SBL scripture citation. See ANLI Writing Guide for more information.
- Late homework will result in the lowering of final grade by one letter. If absent, you still must turn in your homework by the due date.
- Include stapled cover sheet. Cover sheet should state the following only starting half-way down the paper:

Doer of the Word, Week One Essay

Your Name

All Nations Leadership Institute

Part 1. Readings

- Reread the verses studied in session one.
- For session two: read and study Jas 1:5-8 (wisdom during testing), 9-11 (poverty as a test), 12-18 (God relating to trials, new birth overcomes sin), 19-27 (general exhortations); 2:1-13 (partiality in treating others) in both the KJV and NKJV. While studying, determine the attitudes faith produce or bring about per these passages.
- Reader 1 (1-*Overview of James*, 2-*Two Trajectories in James 1*, 3-*Book of James Cross References*). Please review the reader as it gives you background information vital to understanding the Book of James.

Part 2. Exegesis (Posted on ANLI website on the Student Services page. Go to the student login, and then enter password: ANLIstudent)

Define its Jas 1:2-4 with respect to the assigned questions giving both the gloss and context definitions. Name the reference tool you used for the gloss definition. Bullet the definitions. Then, answer each question in two to four sentences. Cite with scripture from the passage. Make sure you write the transliteration after the key word and Strong's number after the gloss definition.

Please note the question exercises and template match the one you did in class. The homework assignment gives you independent practice for this course and those in the future.

James 1:2		
My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; (KJV).		
My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, (NKJV).		
Key Words/ Transliteration	Gloss Definitions (BLB.org) + Strong's Number	Context Definition
Joy		•
Divers		•
temptations		•

James 1:3

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience (KJV).

knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience (NKJV).

Trying		Trying
Faith		Faith
Worketh		Worketh
Patience		Patience
James 1:4 But let patience have her perfect work , that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing (KJV). But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing (NKJV).		
perfect		Perfect work
<i>work</i>		
Perfect		Perfect

Part 3: Prompt (500-600 Words—Begin on a separate sheet)

In Jas 1:2, the author tells the scattered Jewish Christians to consider it pure joy when temptation surrounded them.

We do not speak only of our choices here, but of our attitudes and mindset toward the inevitable temptations and trials we face in life

Prompt:

Using only Jas 1:2-4 and what you learned from your word study, answer the below question.

How can a believer remain joyful when faced with temptation?