



Scripture for the week of May 16: James 1:2-8, 12, 16-25

“2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. 19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. 21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. 22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do”

Sunday, May 16:

Scripture: Read above Scripture slowly (even if it is very familiar to you).

Questions: What stood out for you as you read this Scripture? What do you hope to be reminded of as you focus on this Scripture this week? There seems to be several themes in these verses: perseverance, wisdom, good gifts, anger, and obedience to God's word. Which seems the hardest to obedient to and which seems the easiest?

Prayer: Lord, help me this week to think about what this Scripture is saying and help me where I am weak in being obedient to these verses. Although I don't enjoy trials teach me how to persevere through them knowing that You are with me in them.

Monday, May 17:

Scripture: James 1:2-4: “2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

Questions: Do you consider it pure joy when you face trials? Do you see that it is in the testing that perseverance is produced? Do you also see that when perseverance finishes its work that you may be mature and complete? What do you think this will look like in your life?

Prayer: Lord, I need your help to persevere during trials and I especially need help to look at my trials with pure joy. It is only through You that I can accomplish this. Make it clear what I need to do to make this easier for me.

Tuesday, May 18:

Scripture: James 1:5-8: “5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.”

Questions: How often do you first ask God for wisdom before making any decisions? Do you believe that He will give generously or do you doubt? If you doubt, how do you feel about being called double-minded and unstable?

Prayer: Lord God, thank You that I can come to You when I need wisdom. Help me to be better at trusting You for an answer and not doubting. If I do doubt, bring this Scripture to mind so I can better trust You.

Wednesday, May 19:

Scripture: James 1:12, 16-18: “¹² Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. . . .¹⁶ Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.”

Questions: Do you see we are back at perseverance again? Do you see what happens if we persevere under trials? Wouldn’t you love this reward? Do you believe that every good and perfect gift comes from above? Do you also believe that God does not change? What impact does this have on your life?

Prayer: Lord, thank You that You do not change. I want to be better at persevering when I am facing trials. Remind me to look to You and focus on You so that I can be at peace in the midst of my trials.

Thursday, May 20:

Scripture: James 1:19-21: “¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.”

Questions: Do you struggle with this part of the Scripture? Are you quick to listen and slow to speak? Are you slow to become angry? What do you think it means to “get rid of all moral filth”? How difficult is this for you?

Prayer: Lord God, some of the things in this Scripture I notice in my own life. I don’t want to be this way but sometimes it slips out. As Wesley’s covenant prayer says “I am no longer my own, but thine”. Help me to turn over more of my life to You.

Friday, May 21:

Scripture: James 1:22-24: “²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.”

Questions: If you found yesterday’s Scripture hard, do you see that we should not merely listen to the word but do what it says? Are you willing to turn more of your life over to the Lord and be obedient to His word? Do you know that this can be done with God’s help?

Prayer: God, so many times I know what Your word says but don’t do what it says. Please place a check in my Spirit so that I can be reminded of what Your word is teaching me and how I should live. Don’t let me look at it as a burden but something I desire to do for You.

Saturday, May 22:

Scripture: James 1:25: “²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do”

Questions: Do you see how you can be blessed? Have you seen God’s Word have an impact on your life? Why do we forget to look at His Word when we have seen how His Word has impacted us in the past? What can you do about this?

Prayer: Lord God, I have seen Your Word give me life when I am low. I don’t turn to Your Word as often as I should when I am struggling. Transform me by the renewing of my mind so that I can change my focus on You and receive what I need from You rather than receiving from the world