

James 1:9 – 12

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 ²Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of
2 various kinds, ³for you know that the testing of your faith
3 produces steadfastness. ⁴And let steadfastness have its full
4 effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in
5 nothing.

6 ⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives
7 generously to all without reproach, and it will be given
8 him. ⁶But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the
9 one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and
10 tossed by the wind. ⁷For that person must not suppose that
11 he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸he is a double-
12 minded man, unstable in all his ways.

13 ⁹Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, ¹⁰and the
14 rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass
15 he will pass away. ¹¹For the sun rises with its scorching
16 heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty
17 perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst
18 of his pursuits. ¹²Blessed is the man who remains steadfast
19 under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive
20 the crown of life, which God has promised to those who
21 love him.

Read the passage through completely before looking at these questions.

The shaded area is from our earlier discussion. Use it as a refresher to see how James moves into this week's passage. What new information or ideas does James add in vs. 9-12?

Observation (What does it say?):

Review the observation questions on the back of this page. What facts do you see about the text?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What point(s) is James making? What questions do you have from the text?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

What do you feel prompted to do because of this text?

For additional thought and discussion:

For more suggested methods of study: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/methodical-bible-study/>

For examples of inductive studies: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/inductive-bible-study-examples-2/>

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures,
but draw everything from them,
and suffer nothing to remain
hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**

For a much more detailed description of the methodology, see Robert A. Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*. Wilmore, Kentucky: Asbury Theological Seminary, 1952.

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