

**AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

**Study Series: Wisdom for Living – Study of Epistle of James
Part 9: Growing Through Trials - James 4:13–5:6**

**Wednesday, March 27, 2024
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Breakdown of the Study of the Book of James		
Date	Passage	Topic
1/31/2024	James	Part 1: Overview of Epistle of James
2/7/2024	James 1:2–11	Part 2: Growing Through Trials
2/14/2024	James 1:12–18	Part 3: The Process of Temptation
2/21/2024	James 1:19–25	Part 4: Hearing and Doing the Word
2/28/2024	James 2:1–13	Part 5: The Sin of Partiality
3/6/2024	James 2:14–26	Part 6: Faith Without Works Is Dead
3/13/2024	James 3:1–18	Part 7: Taming the Tongue
3/20/2024	James 4:1– 12	Part 8: The Cause of Quarrels
3/27/2024	James 4:13– 5:6	Part 9: Sins of the Wealthy
4/3/2024	James 5:7– 12	Part 10: Patience in Suffering
4/10/2024	James 5:13– 20	Part 11: The Prayer of Faith
4/17/2024	James	Part 12: Summary and Conclusion

Introduction

James 4 exhibits the theme of humility before God. We should make our plans with reliance on God, seeking God’s will every step of the way. Don’t live your life independent of God! In James 4:13-17, he is addressing traders/businessmen who are making plans and boasting with such arrogance about their plans, but they lack wisdom and humility. They forgot that they are not in control and God is the one in control. In James 5:1-6, his attention is now on rich landowners and their materialistic ways of living without much concern for the people that work for them.

James 4:13-16 (NIV)

13) Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” 14) Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15) Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” 16) As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil.

Discussion:

1. Why do people boast and why is it so hard to resist boasting?
2. Do you instinctively invite God to be part of your plans or do you tend to be presumptuous.
3. How do we discover or rest in the will of God?
4. How often do we talk like this – I alone know what’s best for my life! We make plans and tell God, this is how I want it to be, non-negotiable.

Notes:

1. Life is uncertain, tomorrow is not guaranteed.
2. We plan our lives and schedules with such details and expectations but neglect to add God to the equation.
3. Be aware of self-sufficiency and a false sense that you are in control. God is the one on total control.
4. Wisdom for living – don’t ignore God. Trust Him with your future, your plans and your resources.

James 4:17 (NKJV) - Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Discussion:

1. When you fail to do what you know is right to do, it is a sin. What does this mean to you? Does this apply collectively or individually?

James 5:1-6 (NKJV)

1) Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. 2) Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. 3) Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. 4) Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. 5) You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. 6) You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.

Discussion:

1. Why do we desire more material possessions when our finances increase.
2. How do we store up treasures in heaven **Matt 6:19-21**

Notes:

1. These people were trusting their love for money, the material things and not serving God. **Matt 6:24**.
2. Hoarding earthly wealth will surely wither away, invest in storing your treasures up in heaven.
3. God blesses us with things so that we can be a blessing to some else.
4. How we handle our money and resources is also an expression of how we care for God and others.
5. Wasting what you have or withholding your excess from the poor, not being generous with what God has given you is not the right thing to do.
6. Remember God is the Boss.

Conclusion: God doesn't condemn wealth, but He condemns those who put their wealth before what is right. He is condemning those who put their security in their wealth instead of seeking God's will. Sin from wealth is when wealth becomes god, the apple of your eye instead of the word of God becoming the apple of your eye. (*Proverbs 7:1-3*). It's very important to note that James is not saying we need good works to be saved but being saved should produce good works in our motivations, character, how we live and treat everyone around us. Good works is evidence of our salvation.