

FAITH WORKS II

Undivided Faith
James 4:1-12

1. Take a _____ in the(1-3)

2. Turn it _____ to _____ in humble _____. (7-10)

3. Let _____ be the _____. (11-12)

Boiling it all down:

1. Take a look in the mirror:

a. Get the _____ out of _____ own _____: Matthew 7:1-7

i. Romans 12:9-21

ii. Ephesians 4:1-3

2. Turn it over to God in humble submission.

a. _____ where the _____ is: Ephesians 6:12

b. _____ your _____...

i. Mind of Christ: 2 Peter 2:21-23

1. Walk in _____

2. Don't _____

3. Don't _____

4. Continue _____ yourself to _____ who
_____.

3. Let God be the judge...

a. See what God does

b. When do I _____?

i. Galatians 6:1

1. _____

a. Truly _____, not _____

b. _____ or _____

c. Concern is _____ them, not _____

d. 2 Timothy 2:24-26

2. Matthew 18...if they don't _____, go with

_____...

DAY 1

Note: All definitions this week are taken from a combination of Strong's Concordance, HELPS Word-Studies, and Thayer's Greek Lexicon.

Pray: Hebrews 3:15 says, "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." Before you study, ask the Lord to give you a heart that is willing to hear and respond to His Word. Tell Him of your willingness to listen and obey and of the importance of His Word in your own life.

Memorize: This week we will be memorizing James 4:17. Write the verse on the lines below. Also write it on a 3x5 card and place the card in a spot where you can look at it a few times a day.

Study: As James continues in his letter to the early believers, he addresses 2 groups of people whose faith lacks a focus and dependency on the Lord. Each group begins with the phrase, "Come now." This could also be translated "Listen up!" As you study this week, be prayerfully considering how you need to listen up and respond to the Lord in light of His Word through James. Begin today by reading our passage for the week, James 4:13-5:6. Today and tomorrow we will focus on James 4:13-17.

1. Summarize each verse in James 4:13-17 on the lines below. Try to either outline the verse briefly or write in your own words what the verse is saying.

a. verse 13: _____

b. verse 14: _____

c. verse 15: _____

d. verse 16: _____

e. verse 17: _____

2. What questions do you have about this passage as we begin to study it together? Write them on the lines below.

3. Now answer the following questions using the passage.

a. Who is James specifically addressing? (vs 13) _____

b. What is the problem with their plans? (vs 14) _____

c. What should they be saying and doing instead? (vs 15) _____

d. What sin do you think is at the heart of this person's words and actions and why? (vs 16)

e. What would be in the heart of the person who says, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that"? _____

f. How do you think that knowing and doing the right thing relates to faith that is dependent on the Lord? (vs 17) _____

Pray: What has the Lord shown you today as you've studied? Write a prayer of response to Him on the lines below.

DAY 2

Pray: Proverbs 19:21 says, “Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.” Thank the Lord that He knows all things and that He is a God that can be trusted. Tell the Lord now of your dependence on Him as you live and plan for the future. Ask Him to reveal to you any ways that you are not placing your full dependence on Him.

Memorize: Say James 4:17 out loud a few times now. Continue to refer to your 3x5 card throughout your day and meditate on what this passage teaches you about the Lord.

Study: Begin by reading our passage for the week, James 4:13-5:6. Today we will continue studying James 4:13-17. Use the following biblical definitions to answer questions 1-7 below.

vanishing mist: a vapor, breath, or steam that quickly disappears or scatters.

the Lord's will: the Lord's desire, His best offer; specifically His desire to birth faith in us which empowers us and manifests His presence.

boast: to find my glory and joy in my own accomplishments; to please myself with worldly thoughts of my vain projects and successes which are founded on a wrong view of myself and the future.

1. What picture comes to your mind when you think of a “vanishing mist” and do you often think of your life in this way? _____

2. How would your plans change and how might you spend your time differently if you gave more consideration to the brevity of your own life? _____

3. Do you tend to make daily plans and plans for the future with or without the Lord’s help? Tell a little about why you think you do this. _____

4. Think about the fact that the Lord’s will is His “best offer” for your life and that His desire is to empower you so His presence might be experienced in your life. How might this truth motivate you to seek the Lord’s direction in your life? _____

5. Think about the biblical definition of "boast." Do you see any areas of your life where you seek to find your glory and joy in your own accomplishments? _____

6. How is making plans without considering the Lord boasting? _____

7. What is a step that you need to take to depend on the Lord and walk in His will? _____

8. Make a chart that details the opposing mindsets of the 2 people represented in these verses, the prideful planner and the dependent follower. Use the verses to come up with as many characteristics as you can about each one. An example has been done for you.

The Prideful Planner	The Dependent Follower
makes plans without the Lord (vs 13)	plans prayerfully with the Lord

Where do you see yourself in this chart and why? _____

Pray: How can you prayerfully use your life and your time for the glory of God as an act of worship for Him? Confess to the Lord now any ways in which you have not made plans in light of His will and the brevity of this life. Praise Him that His will is His best offer for your life. Ask Him to show you the tangible steps that you can take to live in dependence on Him. _____

DAY 3

Pray: Meditate on Matthew 6:19-21 by praying this passage back to the Lord. Confess to the Lord your desire to store up treasure that lasts for eternity. Ask the Lord to reveal to you where the treasure of your heart lies as you study today.

Matthew 6:19-21: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Memorize: Say James 4:17 out loud a few times. Refer to your 3x5 card throughout your day, this time meditating on what this passage reveals about your own heart.

Study: Begin by reading our passage for the week, James 4:13-5:6. Today and tomorrow we will focus on James 5:1-6.

1. Summarize each verse in James 5:1-6 on the lines below. Try to either outline the verse briefly or write in your own words what the verse is saying.

a. verse 1: _____

b. verse 2: _____

c. verse 3: _____

d. verse 4: _____

e. verse 5: _____

f. verse 6: _____

2. What questions do you have about this passage as we study it together? Write them on the lines below.
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-
-

Use the passage to answer the following questions.

3. James is calling another group of people to listen up. Who is he addressing? (vs 1)
-
-

4. What is James calling them to do and why? (vs 1-3)
-
-

5. What was the sin that these people had committed? (vs 3,5)
-
-

6. What do you think was at the heart of their wrong-doing?
-
-

7. How did these people that were storing up earthly goods treat others? (vs 4,6)
-
-

8. Do you see yourself in this passage? If so, how?
-
-

Pray: How has the Lord spoken to you as you've studied today? Write a prayer of response to Him now.

DAY 4

Pray: Begin today by meditating again on Matthew 6:19-21. This time read the passage out loud, inserting your name in the blanks below. Ask the Lord to continue to show you what your treasure reveals about your worship as you study today.

Matthew 6:19-21: “_____, Do not lay up for yourself treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but _____, lay up for yourself treasures in heaven, where

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Dependent Faith
James 4:13-5:6

neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For _____, where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Memorize: Repeat James 4:17 out loud a few times. Continue to refer to your 3x5 card today, and meditate on how any habits, attitudes, and behaviors in your life need to change as a result of the truth found in this verse.

Study: As we begin today, read our passage for the week again, James 4:13-5:6. Then use the biblical definitions to answer the following questions from James 5:1-6.

laid up treasure: *to store up, to accumulate for the future, to hoard, to heap up; to gather the wrong kind of wealth that will bring judgement rather than blessing when you stand before God.*

luxury and self-indulgence: *soft-living, dainty living; to live only for your own enjoyment and pleasure at the expense of others around you; to indulge in unneeded surplus, to be wasteful.*

fattened your hearts: *to gorge your body to the full extent of your heart's desire, to feed the flesh rather than the spirit; to be a consumer rather than a contributor to society; living only to eat, drink, and enjoy life at the expense of the poor.*

1. Where are you tempted to store up earthly treasure for your own earthly comfort rather than store up heavenly treasure that will last for eternity? _____

2. What do you think that trusting in earthly treasure would indicate about your heart and worship? _____

3. Do you see areas in your life where you indulge in excess in any way? Tell about them on the lines below. _____

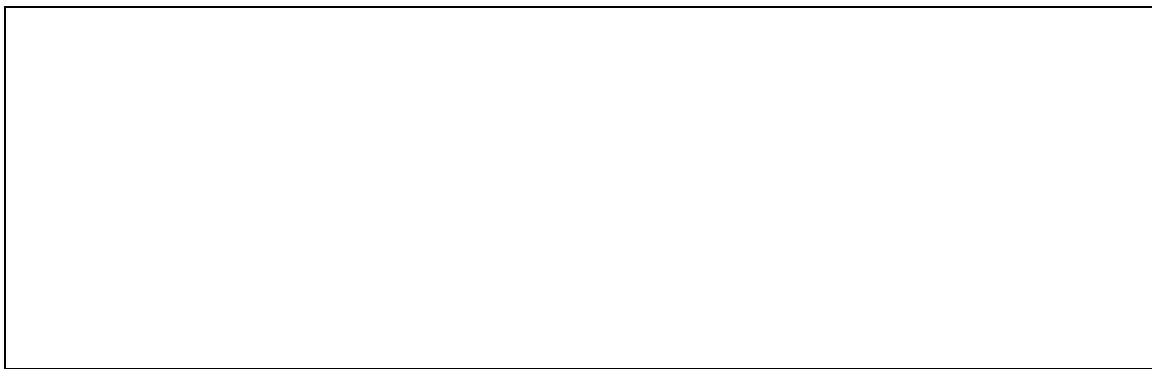
4. How would this kind of living hinder your ability to invest in the kingdom of God? _____

5. Do you see any ways that you are wasteful with the material wealth that the Lord has given you? If so, describe it. _____

6. What are ways that you focus on feeding your flesh to the neglect of your spirit? _____

7. What could you do to focus on feeding your spirit so that your priorities are centered on the Lord's kingdom and eternity? _____

8. Draw a picture of what you think of when you reflect on the self-indulgent, fattened heart that is represented in these verses.



Who does this person worship? _____

What does this person trust in? _____

Where is this person investing her life? _____

9. Do you see yourself in this picture anywhere? If so, how does your life need to change as a result of James' warning? _____

Pray: Respond to the Lord by writing a prayer to Him. Confess any areas of your life where you have trusted in this world and worshipped yourself by living according to your flesh and its desires. Ask the Lord to change your heart so that you can focus on building His kingdom and investing in eternity.

DAY 5

Pray: Meditate on Matthew 6:19-21 once more as we begin. How is the Lord calling you to act or respond? Share with the Lord your own thoughts and feelings. Ask the Lord to give you understanding about how His Kingdom can come in your life as you study today.

Matthew 6:19-21: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Memorize: Repeat James 4:17 now. What has the Lord revealed to you as you have memorized it and meditated on it this week? _____

Study: In James 4:13-5:6, we have studied 2 kinds of people. The first focused on the plans of the body and this world, while the second focused on the pleasure of the body and this world. Both lacked a dependency on the Lord and a focus on eternity. Today we will reflect on these 2 kinds of people as we study a parable of Jesus from the book of Luke. Read Luke 12:15-34.

1. In verse 15, Jesus tells us that His parable illustrates the dangers of covetousness. The word covetousness means “a desire for advantage, lusting for a greater number of temporal things that go beyond what God determines as eternally best; to try to find satisfaction and happiness and comfort in the wealth of the world.” In what ways do you find covetousness creeping into your soul? _____

2. Think about the rich fool that Jesus spoke about in verses 15-21. On the lines below, record as much as you can about him as revealed in this story.
 - a. What or who was he concerned about? _____

b. Who did he consult when faced with the dilemma of his abundant crops (vs 17-18)?

- c. What do his actions reveal about his heart? _____

- d. What was his goal in life (vs 19)? _____

- e. What did this man fail to realize about the time span of his life (vs 20)? _____

- f. What was his ultimate problem (vs 21)? _____

3. What lessons about dependent faith can you learn from the rich fool? _____

4. Covetousness and concern with this earthly life (to the neglect of our spiritual treasure) are not only problems for those who have plenty of material goods. The same heart attitude can be found when we are lacking material goods as well. Answer the questions using Luke 12:22-31.
- a. What command does Jesus give in this passage (vs 22)? _____

 - b. What examples does He use from nature to demonstrate God's love, care, and provision (vs 24-27)? _____

 - c. How can these examples help you to depend fully on the Lord? _____

 - d. According to Jesus, what is lacking in my life if I am not trusting God to meet my physical needs (vs 28)? _____

 - e. What's the remedy for this heart attitude (vs 31)? _____

5. One characteristic of faith that is dependent on the Lord is that it seeks God's kingdom first. A kingdom is defined as the realm in which a king sovereignly rules. God's kingdom comes on this earth when He rules as the supreme authority in your heart. What actions would demonstrate that you are seeking God's Kingdom first in your life? Write as many characteristics as you can think of around the picture below that would demonstrate God's sovereign rule in your life.



6. Are you seeking first the rule and reign of Christ in your heart? Tell about it on the lines below.

Pray: Close today by reading Luke 12:32-34 and responding to the Lord by writing a prayer. Ask the Lord to reveal to you where the things of this world have a hold on your heart. Ask Him to show you how you need to respond so that your treasure will be with Him in heaven, where "no thief approaches and no moth destroys." Surrender your life again to the Lord and confess to Him that your heart is fully dependent on Him.
