

November 13–19

James

“Be Ye Doers of the Word, and Not Hearers Only”



Faith

James 1:2-4

JST James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into *many afflictions*;

What does James tells us is important to keep in mind when facing afflictions?

Romans 5:3-4

[3] And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

[4] And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

Orson F. Whitney

"No pain that we suffer, no trial that we experience is wasted. It ministers to our education, to the development of such qualities as patience, faith, fortitude, and humility. All that we suffer and all that we endure, especially when we endure it patiently, builds up our characters, purifies our hearts, expands our souls, and makes us more tender and charitable, more worthy to be called the children of God." (in: Faith Precedes the Miracle, pg. 98)

Faith

James 5:10-11

Who does James present as examples of those who exercising patience during afflictions?

Robert D. Hales

“Examples of faithfully enduring to the end are taught by prophets of all ages as they demonstrate courage while enduring trials and tribulations to carry forth the will of God. Our greatest example comes from the life of our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. When suffering upon the cross at Calvary, Jesus felt the loneliness of agency when He pled to His Father in Heaven, ‘Why hast thou forsaken me?’ (Matt 27:46). The Savior of the world was left alone by His Father to experience, of His own free will and choice, an act of agency which allowed Him to complete His mission of the Atonement.” (CR, April 1998)

Faith

James 1:5-6

Gordon B. Hinckley

"The history of this Church is a history of the expression of such faith. It began with a farm boy in the year 1820 when he read that great promise set forth in the Epistle of James....

"It was faith, the simple faith of a fourteen-year-old boy, that took him into the woods that spring morning. It was faith that took him to his knees in pleading for understanding. The marvelous fruit of that faith was a vision glorious and beautiful, of which this great work is but the extended shadow." (CR, Oct. 1951)

Faith

James 2:14-18,26

What is the relationship between faith and works?

LeGrand Richards

"James makes it clear that to believe in God is not sufficient, for the devils do as much, and that 'faith without works is dead.' A farmer might just as well believe that he can harvest a crop without planting. Such faith is dead; it will not produce a harvest without works." (A Marvelous Work and a Wonder, pg. 268)

Faith

James 4:3

Neal A. Maxwell

“Instructive, indeed, is that circumstance in which the believing mother of James and John unmeekly pressed the Savior in behalf of her sons, hoping they might later sit on his right hand and on his left. Jesus did not indignantly reprove the worshipful and good mother. Rather, He spoke truthfully to her, saying she did not realize what she asked....

“The mother's petition resembled so many of our prayers. We do not realize the implications of what we ask. We ask amiss and then wonder why such petitions are not granted precisely as submitted.” (Meek and Lowly, pg. 10)

Charity

James 1:27

How does James define pure religion?

Marvin J. Ashton

“From the simple scripture that defines pure religion come great guidelines. To be unspotted from the world, one must avoid all of Satan’s evil plans for the inhabitants of the world. Retaliation, fault-finding, deceit, pettiness, hypocrisy, judging, and destroying one another do not belong in the definition of pure religion.

“Empathy is sincere love for self and our fellowmen. Henry David Thoreau said, ‘Could a greater miracle take place than for us to look through each other’s eyes for an instant?’ If this were possible, I’m sure we could visit and help the widowed and fatherless and all who need our help with the pure love of Christ and thus be responsive to the needs of those around us.” (CR, Oct. 1982)

Charity

James 2:2-8

How does James contrast the rich and the poor?

Boyd K. Packer

"Such an experience [being hard-pressed financially], however unpleasant, can be, in the eternal scheme of things, very, very useful. If you miss that lesson you may have to make it up before you are spiritually mature, like a course that was missed or a test that was failed.

"That may be what the Lord had in mind when He said, 'It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God' (Matt. 19:24)." (CR April 1977)

Charity

James 1:9-11

How much happiness and fulfillment will riches alone bring us?

Bruce R. McConkie

"Let faithful saints who labor in menial positions in this life rejoice, for they shall inherit thrones and kingdoms in the world to come. Let wealthy saints who are stripped of their goods because of their allegiance to the gospel also rejoice, for worldly riches are fleeting and not to be compared with the riches of eternity. Or, let them rejoice when, through trials, they become lowly in spirit and no longer trust in those things which wither and die in the day's heat". (DNTC 3:248)

Jacob 2:17-19

[17] Think of your brethren like unto yourselves, and be familiar with all and free with your substance, that they may be rich like unto you.

[18] But before ye seek for riches, seek ye for the kingdom of God.

[19] And after ye have obtained a hope in Christ ye shall obtain riches, if ye seek them; and ye will seek them for the intent to do good -- to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry, and to liberate the captive, and administer relief to the sick and the afflicted

Overcoming Our Carnal Nature

James 1:27

How can we overcome our carnal natures and become unspotted from the world?

Spencer W. Kimball

"In abandoning evil, transforming lives, changing personalities, molding characters or remolding them, we need the help of the Lord, and we may be assured of it if we do our part. The man who leans heavily upon his Lord becomes the master of self and can accomplish anything he sets out to do, whether it be to secure the brass plates, build a ship, overcome a habit, or conquer a deep-seated transgression." (The Miracle of Forgiveness, pg. 176)

Mosiah 5:2

And they all cried with one voice, saying: Yea, we believe all the words which thou hast spoken unto us; and also, we know of their surety and truth, because of the Spirit of the Lord Omnipotent, which has wrought a mighty change in us, or in our hearts, that we have no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually.

Boyd K. Packer

"True doctrine, understood, changes attitudes and behavior. The study of the doctrines of the gospel will improve behavior quicker than a study of behavior will improve behavior." (CR, Oct. 1986)

Overcoming Our Carnal Nature

James 1:12-15

JST James 1:12 Blessed is the man that *resisteth* temptation...

According to verse 14, what happens that causes us to be tempted?

What can we do to avoid being “drawn away” and “enticed” into temptation?

Boyd K. Packer

“When any unworthy desires press into your mind, fight them, resist them, control them. The Apostle Paul taught, ‘There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it’ (1 Cor. 10:13).

“That may be a struggle from which you will not be free in this life. If you do not act on temptations, you need feel no guilt. They may be extremely difficult to resist. But that is better than to yield and bring disappointment and unhappiness to you and those who love you.” (CR, Oct. 2000)

Overcoming Our Carnal Nature

James 3:1-8

Is it possible for the natural man to control our speech?

Orson Hyde

“I think we shall have plenty to do, at least for the present, to govern our tongues, even the best that are under the sound of my voice; for there is no person but that sometimes speaks unadvisedly with his lips—but that sometimes lets off an improper word; for the tongue or mouth is merely the valve of the heart—the place where the sentiments are discharged that have been confined in the heart, and that is the true index to the real inner man.” (JD, 6:150)

Overcoming Our Carnal Nature

James 1:19-20,26

Why do you think that if we “bridleth not [our] tongue” then our “religion is vain”?

Orson Hyde

“It is the tongue that causes the evils that exist in the world; it is the tongue that sets nations at war; it is the tongue that causes broils in the domestic circle; it is the tongue that causes the fire of animosity and ill-will to burn in our midst. If we can succeed in governing the tongue according to the mind and will of God, we have got peace in our families, peace in our neighborhoods, peace in our community, and, what is more than all, we have peace with our God.” (JD, 6:150)

Overcoming Our Carnal Nature

James 3:13-18

What blessing await us when we strive to avoid envying and strife?

Marvin J. Ashton

“If the adversary can influence us to pick on each other, to find fault, bash, and undermine, to judge or humiliate or taunt, half his battle is won. Why? Because though this sort of conduct may not equate with succumbing to grievous sin, it nevertheless neutralizes us spiritually. The Spirit of the Lord cannot dwell where there is bickering, judging, contention, or any kind of bashing....

“When we truly become converted to Jesus Christ, committed to Him, an interesting thing happens: our attention turns to the welfare of our fellowman, and the way we treat others becomes increasingly filled with patience, kindness, a gentle acceptance, and a desire to play a positive role in their lives. This is the beginning of true conversion.” (CR, April 1992)

Overcoming Our Carnal Nature

James 4:4-10

What must we do to overcome our carnal nature?

Dallin H. Oaks

“Because of His atoning experience in mortality, our Savior is able to comfort, heal, and strengthen all men and women everywhere, but I believe He does so only for those who seek Him and ask for His help. The Apostle James taught, ‘Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up’ (James 4:10). We qualify for that blessing when we believe in Him and pray for His help.” (CR, Oct. 2015)

Next Week:

November 20–26

1 and 2 Peter

“Rejoice with Joy Unspeakable and Full of Glory”

