

MAN 2 MAN

Men's FOCUS Group

FOCUS Groups are small group meetings that invite interaction and involvement within a pleasant and respectful environment. These groups meet to explore and understand the realities of this world in the light of God's love and truth.

Chapter 1

V1- bondservant- One who willingly places himself under a master. All that he has and all that he does is under the master's authority.

Twelve tribes- This letter is one of the first New Testament letters written, even before the letters Paul wrote, and the church at this time was made up of Jews who became followers of Jesus.

God calls us to maturity; men need to grow spiritually! Too many men have been lethargic and immature spiritually. Spiritual leadership and example have often been picked up by the wife or relatives because the man in the house has not carried this responsibility as he has been called to. This section of James will help us a men as it addresses spiritual growth; temptations and trials!

V2,3,4- Trials reveal a need and are a part of the process of maturing. When we understand the process it helps to endure and to learn in the trials. *Patience/perseverance* during the trial leads you on the path to maturity.

V5-8 Asking God for help, for wisdom. God is not stingy with wisdom, He pours out wisdom to whoever believes He is the gracious God.

V6- no doubting- This speaks of the doubt that says, 'God is unwilling to give to you'. The doubt that says, 'God doesn't care, doesn't concern Himself and is not interested in me'. This doubt is self-focused and is rooted in unbelief, to which God will not reply. (James 3:15,16)

The doubt that most people experience is the doubt/unbelief that God does bless as expressed in Mark 9:24, "*Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief."*

V12- It is a blessing to grow, to mature spiritually. As we see from this verse, spiritual growth will be our life until we depart this world. May we never stop or think we are 'close enough'. Too many turn back when they are close to a victory (John 6:60, 66).

V13-18 Blaming someone else keeps you from growing! We are all prone to placing blame when things get frustrating or confusing. Blame is rarely the issue; blaming is a distraction, a way to deflect from the real issue.

V13-Don't blame God, He is for you and not against you. (Romans 8:31-39)

V14,15- Psalm 19:12-14, 139:23,24

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalm 139:23, 24

V17- Many people look at the mess that man has made of this world and they struggle to know and realize the grace and goodness of God. Every good and perfect gift is from Him! He is the One who provides the light in a dark world and His light does not vary nor fade away.

V18- It is from His goodness and grace that we are forgiven and born again! We are living examples to all creation of the wonders and goodness of God!

V19-Practice this daily! Choose to be a good listener! Respond with intention and intelligence. For example; Ask yourself; “What am I trying to communicate? Is this the best way to say it? What am I intending to accomplish in this conversation?”

V20- It is better to listen, your wrath does not produce a good response!

V21-27 Know what a maturing man of God looks like and lives like!

V21- Take out the trash! Receive His Word! *Meekness*- Humility, strength under control

V22- Our lives reflect what we believe. (Don't be deceived)

V23,24 This happens so easily; Starting the morning with faith, optimism, hope and out the door to work we go. Later as we leave work and head home we realize we forgot what kind of man we were. If this is a scenario you know all too well, revisit verses 21 and 22 and then continue on to verse 25.

V25- What a beautiful way to see the Word of God- *perfect law of liberty!* Look into it...continue in it...don't forget it...do it(Nike up)... You will experience His blessing!

V26- Control your tongue. (Take note your tongue may be working too closely with your emotions and not closely enough with your brain). More on this in chapter 3.

V27- Know those who have genuine need and then extend His love to them.

To remain unstained in this world we must constantly be washed with His Word.

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Psalm 139:23, 24