

Life's Lessons:

James

How to "walk the talk".

Signs of Spiritual Growth & Maturity:

- **Positive under pressure**

James 1:2-4 Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

James 1:12 God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

How do you handle problems?

Do you get uptight, negative, grumble, gripe, complain or are you positive under pressure?

- **Sensitive to all people**

James 2:8-9 Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: "Love your neighbor as yourself." But if you favor some people over others, you are committing a sin.

James 2:2-4 For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes. If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one. You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor - well, doesn't this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives?

Are you sensitive to other people?

Are you concerned about their needs, desires, cares, hurts, or do you only see yourself?

Do you only pray for yourself or do you pray for others?

- **The ability to control your mouth**

James 3:2 Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.

Ephesians 4:29 Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

James 1:26 If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless.

Can you manage your mouth?

Do you gossip?

- **Being a peacemaker, not a troublemaker**

James 4:1 What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong – you want only what will give you pleasure.

James 4:11-12 Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you. God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor?

Do you have a tendency to stir things up?

Do you carry a grudge? Are you passive-aggressive?

- **Being patient and prayerful**

James 5:7,11 Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return...for the Lord is full of tenderness and mercy.

James 5:16b The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

How do you rate yourself?