

## HOPE SABBATH SCHOOL

### The Book of James – Part 2

#### The Perfecting of Our Faith

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing our study of the Book of James. Our topic today: The Perfecting of Our Faith.

Scripture Theme Song: “Bless the LORD” – Psalm 103:1-4

- 1) Faith that endures
  - a) James 1:2-3
  - b) 1 Peter 1:3-7
  - c) 1 Peter 4:12-13
  - d) How is it possible for our faith to grow stronger in the midst of trials?
  - e) James asks us to ensure but also to rejoice in the midst of our trials. How is that possible?
  - f) What Bible character inspires you as someone who remained faithful and joyful in the midst of trials?
  - g) Share a time when you experienced a trial that God used to strengthen your faith.
- 2) God’s desire for us: “perfect and complete”
  - a) James 1:4 - teleios
  - b) Matthew 5:48
  - c) Colossians 1:28, 4:12
  - d) What does it mean to be perfect and complete?
  - e) What is the danger of constantly checking to see how “perfect and complete” you are? (Heb 12:1-2)
- f) Philippians 3:12-16 – what important lessons can we learn about the process of Christian maturity?
- 3) Asking for wisdom
  - a) James 1:5
  - b) 1 Kings 3:5-13 “a understanding (hearing) heart”
  - c) 1 Kings 3:16-28 – example: “the wisdom of God was in him.”
  - d) Can you think of an example of wisdom among the followers of Jesus? Acts 13:6-12
  - e) Why is God so willing to give wisdom to those who ask in faith?
- 4) Asking without wavering
  - a) James 1:6-8
  - b) We all struggle with questions and doubts. How is it possible to ask without wavering?
  - c) Ephesians 2:8 – even faith is a gift!
- 5) Keeping earthly riches in their proper perspective
  - a) James 1:9-11
  - b) James 5:1-6
  - c) What teaching of Jesus is James restating here?
    - i) Matthew 6:19-21
    - ii) Luke 12:16-21
  - d) After Zacchaeus the wealthy tax collector became a follower of Jesus, how did his attitude towards his wealth change? Luke 19:8-10
  - e) Why is the love of money so dangerous? 1 Timothy 6:10
  - f) What are some practical ways to avoid the traps of selfishness, materialism and greed?