

"Pure Religion"

Lesson 42 – James

Introduction

- What does the word pure mean?
- What does religion mean?
- How would you define pure religion?

1. We should endure affliction patiently.

James 1:1-4; 5:10-11.

- **What did James teach about facing trials of our faith?** (See James 1:2-3 footnote 2a.)
- **How can trials help us develop patience?**
- **How are we blessed when we endure afflictions patiently?** (James 1:4; Romans 5:3-5; Alma 36:3.)
- Whom did James mention as good examples of patience in affliction? (James 5:10-11.)
- How have you seen latter-day prophets demonstrate this patience?
- **How has their example helped you?**

2. We should pray to God in faith. James 1:5-7 and 4:8.

- What counsel did James give to those who "lack wisdom"? (See James 1:5-6.)
- What will Heavenly Father do if we ask in faith?
- **What experiences have you had with receiving answers to prayer?**
- How was the Prophet Joseph Smith influenced by the counsel in James 1:5? (JS—History 1:11-13.)
- What can we learn from his experience?
- **How did Joseph's decision to follow the counsel in James 1:5 affect us?** (JS—History 1:14-20.)
- How did James describe those who pray without faith? (James 1:6-7.)
- What can we do to strengthen our faith?
- James taught, "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" (James 4:8). **How does sincere prayer bring us closer to God?**

3. We should control our tongues and be "slow to wrath." James 1:19-20, 26; 3:2-18.

- James taught that we should be "swift to hear, slow to speak" (James 1:19). **What experiences in your life have confirmed the wisdom of this counsel?**
- **How can we become better listeners and more thoughtful speakers?**
- James also taught we should be "slow to wrath" (James 1:19).



Follow My Prophets To Me



- **What are some consequences of speaking or acting in anger?**
 - **What experiences in your life have confirmed the wisdom of James's counsel?**
 - **How can we overcome or control feelings of anger?**
 - James taught that we should bridle our tongues (James 1:26).
 - **What is the purpose of a horse's bridle?**
 - How can we apply James's counsel to "bridle" our tongues? (James 4:11.)
 - Read James 3:3-5. **What did James compare the tongue to in these verses?**
 - **What can we learn from these comparisons?**
 - **How can learning to control our words help us control other aspects of our lives?**
 - Read James 3:9-13. What did James teach in these verses about controlling our speech?
 - **How can controlling our tongues help lead to peace?** (James 3:16-18.)
 - **Why is controlling our tongues an important part of pure religion?**
- ### 4. We should be "doers of the word," showing our faith by our works. James 1:22-25, 27; 2:14-26; 4:17.
- What does it mean to be "hearers only" of the word? (James 1:22.)
 - In what sense do "hearers only" deceive themselves? (James 1:22-25; 4:17.)
 - What are the blessings of being "doers of the word"?
 - **What did James teach about the relationship between faith and works?** (See James 2:14-26.)
 - Why is faith dead without works?
 - **How do good works strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ?**

- What did James emphasize that we should do to live a pure religion? (James 1:27)
 - Why do you think visiting and helping people in need is part of pure religion?
 - What can we do to stay "unspotted from the world"? (James 1:27; see D&C 59:9.)
 - **How does attending church and partaking of the sacrament each week help us stay unspotted from the world?**
- ### 3. Additional teachings of the book of James
- In the JST James 1:12, the word **endureth** is changed to **resisteth** (footnote 12b). What is the difference between enduring temptation and resisting temptation?
 - What are the promises to those who resist temptation? (James 1:12; 4:7.)
 - What did James teach about judging others? (James 2:1-9.)
 - **Why do some people judge others by their earthly positions or material possessions?**
 - **How can we learn to look beyond the outward appearance and into people's hearts, as God does?** (1 Samuel 16:7; D&C 38:24-27.)
 - What did James teach about the effects of envy and lust? (James 3:16; 4:1-6.)
 - **How can we overcome feelings of envy or lust?** (James 4:7-10.)
 - What did James teach about administering to the sick? (James 5:14-15.)
 - How have you been blessed or seen others be blessed by the healing power of the priesthood?
 - James emphasized the importance of helping people who "err from the truth" (James 5:19-20).
 - How can we do this?