

# Gems From James

- Introduction:
1. As a whole, the book of James is one of the most practical books in the New Testament.
  2. It addresses where we live, and how we live our lives from day to day.
  3. When you stop and think about it, very little of Christianity has to do with rules of worship.
  4. Christianity is mostly centered around a way of living.
  5. Let's look at one noteworthy point from each chapter of the book of James.

I. (James 1:19-20).

- A. Be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.
- B. Jumping to conclusions without all the facts often leave us embarrassed and guilty of sin.
- C. We need to learn to take into consideration other perspectives, other motives, and other information.
- D. (1 Timothy 5:19; 1 Corinthians 13:7).

II. (James 2:1, 9).

- A. There is no place for prejudice in the life of a Christian.
- B. Prejudice is a failure in the most basic of Christian commands - Love.
- C. We must treat all people with love, respect, decency, and as people who are created in the image of God.

III. (James 3:6).

- A. The tongue is a fire.
- B. (James 1:26).
- C. While there are exceptions to this rule, as a general rule, would it not be best to say nothing if we could not say something nice?
- D. I believe it was Eleanor Roosevelt who said, "Great minds talk about ideas, average minds talk about events, while small minds talk about people."

IV. (James 4:4-8).

- A. We cannot be a friend of the world and a friend of God.
- B. To be in step with God, we must be out of step with the world.
- C. (Romans 12:2).
- D. We live in the world, but are not to be of the world.

V. (James 5:7-8).

- A. We must learn patience.
- B. Accounts are not always settled as quickly as we sometimes wish, but God is faithful to do what is right with you.
- C. (Galatians 6:9).

- Conclusion:
1. Let's be sure that we don't reduce Christianity to a list of doctrinal rules that revolve around what we do in worship.
  2. Christianity is a lifestyle, a daily effort at imitating Jesus.
  3. Let's all work at being a better reflection of him every day.