

# LIVING HD



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## WEEK 1

21 - 25 June 2021

## WEEK 1 – A LETTER FROM JAMES TO WEST VIEW

### MONDAY – Living in High Definition

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. To West View:  
GREETINGS!



**James 4: 8-10** *Come near to God, and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners. Purify your hearts, you double-minded. Cry out in sorrow, mourn, and weep! Let your laughter become mourning and your joy become sadness. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.*

The book of James is a practical book on how to live out the Christian life.

Early followers of Christ faced many trials and so found it easy to abandon their commitment to Him. Undoubtedly the last 15 months have been tough! Life is tough! And to this end, James has much to say to us.

Often his writing appears harsh (4: 9). But he is stressing the importance of being a straight arrow for Christ in a difficult world. This book can be seen as the Book of Wisdom of the New Testament.

Studying James is going to be a journey of living a high definition life. Where with God's help we can

present a crystal-clear picture of God and His Kingdom. A sharp contrast to the world. *We can move from somewhat defined in Jesus to highly defined in Jesus* (Pierre Smith, Every Nation).

A journey where we learn to live beyond what we can see or ever imagine. James can teach and challenge us to live in HD. Teach us to live and expect a life lived fully for God.

So at the beginning of this journey can you humble yourself before God? Prepare to open your mind and heart to a new way of living. Take this time to pray for wisdom and the courage to discover what high definition could look like in your life.



**Prayer:** Lord, help me to make the choice to look up and seek Your wisdom. I know there is so much more to living for You. Prepare my heart for the challenge of fully living in You. AMEN

## TUESDAY – Faith and Deeds



**James 2: 14** *My brothers and sisters, what good is it if people say they have faith but do nothing to show it?*

This week we look at little clips of what James will be teaching us.

When we have experienced the blessing and generosity of God in our lives, and when we claim to follow Him – can we do anything else BUT express that in generosity towards others?

James says, “Hearers have to be doers”. Our faith expressed in deeds.

We tend to have a problem with hearing: sometimes we pretend NOT to hear; sometimes we hear but FORGET; even at times when we don’t WANT to hear. The cliché comes to mind “There are none so deaf as those who will not hear.”

- What is your faith saying to you?
- Do you need to be still in order to hear?

Faith and deeds can be as simple as thinking and acting kindly towards everyone whom we come into contact with. Doers and givers are cultivated. We can grow in the art of giving. I read a book where the author was challenged to give a gift to someone, every day for a month. Something as small as a phone call to as large as a monetary donation. She relates the staggering affect this had on her at the end of the month. Something happens to us when we GIVE and DO.

Let us prepare to hear what James has to say to us on faith and deeds.

- Is your faith passive or active?
- Can you make a practice of asking “How can I help?”
- Who needs a small gift today?



**Prayer:** Lord, give to me a heart like Yours. Help me to begin to focus more on others. I want to turn my eyes and heart outwards rather than inward. Show me how my faith and love for You can be in actions. AMEN

Make Me A Servant: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6U8O\\_WnPZY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6U8O_WnPZY)

## WEDNESDAY – Taming the Tongue



**James 3: 4 & 5** *Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.*

The tongue is made up of 8 muscles and used for eating, talking and swallowing. It is the most sensitive and flexible muscle in the body. It is as unique as the fingerprints are. And apparently women have shorter tongues than men!

Proverbs has a lot to say about the tongue:

12:8; 13:3; 15:4; 18:21; 21:23; 34: 13 – the message is clear. It would appear, that through the ages the tongue has been a problem!

*"For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."* (Matt 12: 37). So, it is probably worthwhile paying attention to what we say.

- But is it the tongue's fault? Should we not examine our minds and our hearts?

- Is the taming of the tongue actually the art of thinking before we speak?

We need to seek God's help to use our tongues wisely. Careful words can give us a new heart, new life and new power.

As we prepare to hear what James has to say about the tongue, consider:

- Silence is powerful too.
- Listen more. Speak less.
- Words have power. In which direction do you want that power to go?
- Be aware of gentle, life-giving words.

Can you apply these?

Let's think about how we use those 8 muscles. Your tongue will reveal the state of your soul. Is it well with your soul?



**Prayer:** *May these words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.* (Psalm 19: 4) AMEN

## THURSDAY – Submitting to God



**James 4: 7 & 8** *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

House upon the rock: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F\\_Bkct-OMyA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_Bkct-OMyA)

Submitting to God is allowing Him to set the standard for everything you do. But we can't submit to Him if we do not draw near to Him. We need to praise and worship Him, spend time reading the Scriptures and just being still in His presence. We have to examine our thoughts, attitudes, values, actions – and see which are not in alignment with Jesus' teachings.

Relinquish control. Oh this is so hard for us to do! Often it is only when we encounter devastating times that we turn wholeheartedly to God. How much easier would it be if we embarked on a journey of submission in quiet times? Where we can quietly release those areas we know we are holding on to: Past hurts or failures; feelings of guilt or inadequacy. Actions for which we are not proud. Regrets or anger.

James says (4: 9) that this process will involve us in grieving and mourning; and turning our joy to gloom. BUT THEN (v 10) *Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.* We will find peace and joy in God.

In preparation:

- Examine your heart and mind.
- In whichever way is appropriate to your situation, draw near to Him and talk about it.
- Some may need to just move closer to God, others may need to turn around completely; or perhaps it is a daily reminder that you need.

Let God's Word become the foundation on which you stand. Come near to God, and He will come near to you.



**Prayer:** Lord I open myself up to You. Help me to build my life upon Your rock. I need a firm foundation to steady me and give me comfort and strength. AMEN

## FRIDAY – Patient and Prayerful



**James 5: 7-9** *Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!*

There is little patience in the world today. We have grown accustomed to instantaneous responses and answers. So too do we expect quick fixes in times of suffering and hardship. This is unfortunate as God's timing and answers usually require us to wait. Words associated with Jesus' response to these situations are 'wait' and 'be still'.

As followers of Christ we are called to patiently endure; and run the race. Why? Because some things are best achieved over time. James in Verse 8 instructs us "to strengthen our resolve".

The analogy of the farmer in Verse 7 as to how we live is so meaningful. The farmer does all he can to work the fields for each appropriate season. Then he

waits for nature to do the rest. And so too, we work for Christ to the best of our ability but then we need to let Him do the rest. We need to shift our own attempts to control and fix onto God.

We need to be farmers. We need to work the field (our life) and then LET THE SEASONS HAPPEN. This is what God has ordained. Whether those seasons be scorching or freezing; dry or refreshing, have the patience to see all of them through.

In preparation to learn what James has to say on prayerful patience, ascertain the season you are in. Then be still, keep praying and let God begin His work in You. Each season has a purpose.



**Prayer:** Lord it is so hard to wait. So hard to be still. Yet You say to me "I have got this." Help me to accept this in faith, to be patient in perseverance and quiet in the waiting times. May each season of my life be ordained by You. AMEN

There is a Time (Eccl 3: 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-671epv4K4>