

James is often referred to as a book of practical wisdom for the church; yet James starts his writing with advice that would seem very unconventional for his readers.

logical opposites:

- be _____ when you face _____
- those in _____ circumstances should take _____ in their high position
- those who are _____ should see themselves as being in _____ position

gospel reminder:

- instead of being _____, Jesus came to be a _____
- instead of seeking _____, Jesus gave up his _____
- instead of chasing after _____, Jesus chased after those who were _____

what does James mean by temptations, doubts, double-minded?

- Contradiction between _____ and _____

James is addressing actions taken _____ the church (see [Acts 15](#))

the way of _____ comes to us as a _____ of God

Unconventional Wisdom

James 1:2–18 (NIV)



²Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

⁹Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. ¹⁰But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. ¹¹For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.

¹²Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

¹³When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

¹⁶Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

Unconventional Wisdom

James 1:2-18



Understanding the Bible:
What is the problem being
expressed in this Bible passage?

How does God show up in this Bible Passage?

According to today's passage, who is it that gives
wisdom to those who ask?

My favorite song today:

Things I will pray for this week:

Today's Bible Passage: James 1:2-11

(Can you find the highlighted words?)

T A K E P R O D U C E S
R G I V E S C K C F V I
M N P E R S O N O K M R
D I S I S V M O N I G I
O L I K E H P W S N U C
U T O L V O L T I D S H
B E L I E V E H D S I P
T S H B R O T H E R S R
M T A W A Y E R R S T I
P I F I N I S H E F E D
U N F A C E M A T U R E
R G M B E C A U S E S P
E F A I T H I L A C K S

Consider it
pure joy, my
brothers and
sisters,
whenever you
face trials of
many kinds,
because you
know that the
testing of your
faith produces
perseverance.
Let
perseverance
finish its work
so that you may
be **mature** and
complete, not
lacking
anything. If any
of you **lacks**

wisdom, you should ask God, who **gives** generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must **believe** and not **doubt**, **because** the one who doubts is **like** a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That **person** should not expect to receive **anything** from the Lord. Such a **person** is double-minded and unstable in all they do. Believers in humble circumstances ought to **take pride** in their high position. But the **rich** should **take pride** in their humiliation—since they will pass **away like** a wild flower. For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the **rich** will fade **away** even while they go about their business.