

## **“The Word According To Jim: Walking the Talk”** **James 1:1-18 “How to Withstand Trials & Resist Temptations”**

### **A Prayer For A Fresh Start:**

(Since everyday is a new beginning, consider/pray this prayer from Tom Newberry’s book “*The 4:8 Principle.*”)  
*“Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for new beginnings! Infuse me today with a fresh dose of your Holy Spirit, and fill me with thoughts that strengthen my character and cause me to grow fully into the image You intended for me when You brought me into this world. Help me to preoccupy my mind with the actions of Jesus and thoughts of You - thoughts that are pure, true, lovely and worthy of praise. Heighten my awareness so that my thinking doesn’t unconsciously drift into the negative, limiting, and counterproductive patterns that so often ensnare me in Satan’s suffocating web. Protect me from the temptations to complain, condemn, or focus on what is wrong with things. Instead, elevate my thinking and open my eyes so that I see Your presence in all situations. I so want to appreciate Your abundance that sufficiently surrounds me and activate Your joy that is hidden within me. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*

### **Prep For Opening & Hearing & Responding To God’s Word – The Bible:**

(Questions from Campus Crusade for Christ’s “*Ten Basic Steps Toward Christian Maturity*”)

*What is the principle of the reading and leading lesson of the reading? What is the key verse (memorize it)? Who are the principle characters? What does the passage(s) teach about God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit? Is there any example for me to follow? Is there an error for me to avoid? Is there a duty for me to perform out of devotion to Christ or a call for me to respond to? Is there any promise for me to claim? Is there a prayer for me to echo?*

### **“Bible In One Year” Readings = January 1-11**

*Genesis 1:1- 26:16; Matthew 1:1-8:34; Psalm 1:1-10:15; Proverbs 1:1-3:8*

### **“1 Chapter from the Bible book of Proverbs each day”**

### **Readings like James 1:1-18 on “How To Withstand Trials & Resist Temptations”**

(Read a passage or two a day, or consider a passage at each meal, & apply it to your life.)

*James 4:7; Genesis 2:16-17 & 3 & 39; Matthew 4:1-11 & 5:1-16 & 5:48; Psalm 27 & 1:1-6; Proverbs 1:10-19 & 3:1-2 & 3:5-6; John 1:1-14 & 16:33; 1Peter 1:6-7; Job 13:15; Romans 2:7 & 5:3-5 & 8:24-38; 2Corinthians 5:16-21; 6:3-7 & 12:7-10; 2Peter 1:2-9; Matthew 21:22; Mark 4:18-19; 1Corinthians 9:25 & 10:23 & 15:20; 2Timothy 2:22; Galatians 5:16-26; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 4:12-16 & 12:1-13; Revelation 21:1-8 & 22:1-21; 1John 1:8-2:2; Ephesians 4:13; Exodus 32; Numbers 11-14; Deuteronomy 1:19-11:32 & 26:1-19; 1John 2:28-3:10; 2Samuel 11 & 12; John 17*

### **Prep for Next Week (Sacrament of Holy Communion):**

### **James 1:19-25 & 3:13-4:10 “Listening & Doing = Wisdom & Submission”**

*Psalm 51; 1John 1:8-2:2; John 3:16; Hebrews 4:12 & 5:11- 6:12; 1Peter 2:1-2; Luke 8:4-15 & 8:32-34; 2Corinthians 3:18 & 6:14; Psalm 119:45 & 139:23-24; Romans 3:18 & 7:22; John 17:17; Ephesians 5:15-17 & Psalm 90:12; Jeremiah 29:11; Colossians 1:10-13 & 2:1-5 & 3:1-4:6; Proverbs 14:12; 1Corinthians 3:19; Matthew 17:5; Philippians 2:5-11*

## Small Group/Family Q's for Discussing & Journeying Together

### *James 1:1-18 "How To Withstand Trials & Resist Temptations"*

(Several Q's taken from "*The Serendipity Bible for Groups*")

1. What is the hardest test you ever remember taking? What do you do to cheer up when you are down? Who do you lean on in hard times?
2. According to James, what should be a Christ-follower's attitude when facing trials? How often is this your attitude in your own hard times? Why is perseverance important? What reward comes with persevering in the faith for those who love God? Describe the "crown of life."
3. What does it mean to be a "double-minded" person? How can one avoid being "double-minded"?
4. How does James turn the assumed status of the rich and poor upside down?
5. What is a trial presently (or one you have faced) in your life? Who/What has helped you in/through it?
6. In order to withstand trials, how do/can you go about getting wisdom from God?
7. What do we learn about the "conception & birthing," or origin of, temptation and sin? What stages does temptation progress through to become "full-grown" sin? Give examples as to how this process is true in your life. What have you found helpful in dealing with temptation? Who have you found helpful for/in dealing with sin & how so? How, from practical experience and Biblical wisdom, can one resist temptation?
8. What/Who is the good and perfect gift from above? How have you experienced, how are you experiencing, and how do you plan (according to God's promises) on experiencing in the future His good and perfect gift/gifts?
9. What does it mean to be chosen for birth through the word of truth? What is the importance of this choosing and birth? What or who is the "word of truth"?
10. What is the importance of and/or what does it mean to be a kind of first fruits of all God created? What is the significance of being a first fruit? Are you presently a first fruit?
11. Give specific examples of how you and your family/small group are actively living out Rejoice's! 4 Values of Worship, Outreach, Prayer & Small Groups. Give specific examples of how you and your family/small group are actively living out the Mission of Rejoice! which states "by living out you commitment to Christ through a small groups, we will reach out to those who are not experiencing God's love. Empowered by God's Word and Holy Spirit we will prayerfully follow Jesus' example." Give examples how you and your family/small group are living out the Vision of Rejoice! that of "being a church that develops disciples and reaches out to the harvest." Let's pray!