

A sunset over a body of water with a white box containing text. The sky is filled with colorful clouds in shades of orange, red, and blue. The water reflects the colors of the sky. In the center, there is a white rectangular box with a black border containing the text for a study.

STUDY 7

FAITH WITH ATTITUDE

JAMES 4:13-5:11

James has been writing to real world Christians. Christians enduring hardships, but not necessarily equally. Christians who seem to be on two different levels of the social divide. He's been switching back and forth, urging each to live out a **faith that works**. It's a faith that joyfully endures trials knowing that the crown of life awaits those who persevere. A radically transformational faith which tunes ears and tames tongues and practically cares for the vulnerable.

In this next section, we're seeing an outworking of the command and promise he's just given to believers. "Humble yourselves before the Lord and He will lift you up" (4:10). James is promoting **faith with a particular kind of attitude**. It's a must have attitude for Christians, and a key to overcoming the kind of argy-bargy so often present in the church.

SHAMELESS SELF-PROMOTION

1. Read James 4:13-17 and summarise with the formula – Do this, not this, because of this reason.

Do this...

Not this....

Because...

Interesting Facts

The 21st century has seen the rise of the shameless self promoting phenomenon – the selfie. Non-profit organization Rawhide found some interesting selfie stats:

- 74 percent of Snapchat photos are selfies.
- 1,000 selfies are posted on Instagram every second.
- In 2015, more people died from taking selfies than from shark attacks.

Woody Allen

“If you want to make God laugh, tell him about your plans.”

2. It’s possible James has a particular situation in mind as he writes, but there are lots of ways this kind of boastful attitude can come out. Can you list off a few ways we self-promote and boast like this?

3. Why would a boastful attitude be incompatible with faith in Jesus?

4. When, if ever, do you use the phrase, “Lord willing”? Should you?

SHAMELESS SELF-INDULGENCE

5. Read James 5:1-6 and summarise with the formula – Do this, not this, because of this reason.

Do this...

Not this....

Because...

6. Let's get real – would you rather be rich or poor?

7. James says some surprising things. He promotes joy in trials, but mourning for the rich. Why should the rich mourn?

8. Why doesn't James just tell the rich to get rid of their money? What else could they do with it? (4:17)

PATIENT WAITING

9. Read **James 5:7-11** and summarise with the formula – Do this, not this, because of this reason.

Do this...

Not this....

Because...

10. We can all be patient for a time. What is it that tips you over the edge and what kind of things do you grumble about?

11. How could patiently waiting for the return of Jesus (like the farmer for the rain) prevent grumbling for you?

12. James concludes this section by reminding us that “the Lord is full of compassion and mercy” (4:11). That seems to be the key to patiently waiting for him. What concrete actions could help you remember the compassion and mercy of Jesus in the hard times?

James is calling believers to have faith with attitude - the right kind. Where you're not boasting or grumbling, but being patient, trusting the Lord and standing firm. Pray for each other, that when things are going well for you, you won't be self-promoting or self-indulgent, but humble before Jesus and generous to others. Pray that when things are tough for you, you won't grumble against others but patiently wait for Jesus. Pray that your faith in Jesus will shape your attitude in the good times and the bad.