

# Daily Thoughts for week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Week7

## Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February

If you knew this would be your last week on earth, would you change any aspect of your life? Would your life look any different to how it looks today?

Think about who is in control of your life? If it is you, then you don't really care about what God wants for you! You're already living as if there are no consequences. You have become the captain of your own ship which of course is no way for a Christian to live.

James is challenging us in this section about the way we think and about who is in control. God has a plan for our lives, and we should desire to follow it.

**Read:** carefully the last verse of chapter 4(v17)

**Thought:** What does that verse mean for you? Re-write it in your own words. [You might come back to it later and decide whether you still agree with what you have written down.

**Pray:** Pray asking for God to give you help with this verse, its implications and which part(s) you need to take on board right now.

What is Right Thinking and Right Action?

## Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February

**Reading:** Revelations 21:1-4

**Remember:** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth; in the end/new beginning, God will create a new heaven and a new earth. That is the eternal state and that will be our eternal home. Our hope.

Clearly, we have amazing things to look forward to. That hope pushes us on in times of difficulty. And we are reminded that although we have received the promise, we haven't experienced it yet. So, we must diligently push forward in faith so that we can enter into that rest one day (Hebrews 4:11).

**Prayer:** Seek God's presence and ask Him to make our hearts new and sustain us in His love. Ask God for comfort and to make our dreams new and refresh us in your love. When we struggle or hurt, and are held down by the suffering of life, ask God to be with you and to console us and to feel your concern for us. When we are overwhelmed or adrift, lost in the strain of life, ask God to be with you and remind us of His steadfast love. Ask for guidance to help us to follow your path for us.

## Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February

Consider today:-

Who is really in charge of your life? God has a plan for you - God has a plan for you and for me - sometimes we just have to wait God's perfect timing for the next phase of our lives.

**Prayer:** thank You for this truth in the book of James that when I know what is righteous and yet do not do it, I am committing a sin in Your eyes.

Forgive me for the times when I have known that something is evil but done it anyway, when I have avoided doing what is right, or when I have turned a blind eye to some need or necessity. I pray that from this day forward, I would not only know what is right but be ready and willing to carry it out, through Your sufficient strength and for Your greater glory. This I ask in Jesus' name, AMEN.

### Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February

In chapter 5 James is mentioning a very difficult circumstance that these believers were going through. This is a specific kind of trial. As James begins to draw his letter to a close, I believe he is returning to the subject that he began with.

Can you remember what it was?

James 1:2—"count it all joy my brothers when you meet trials of various kinds."

James had some general things to say about trials, and now he is finally ready to talk about this one. And this one is tough. It is oppression from the rich. It was this unfair, undeserved, and cruel treatment from a wealthy, powerful, and evil group of people in the community.

Think about the things you own. How much value do you place on them? I am always wondering what I would want to grab if I had to leave my home in a hurry? Is the thing I'd grab something of real value or something I could really do without? Pray about it!

### Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February

**Read:** James 5:1-5

**Thoughts:** Clearly James is not teaching that all rich people are evil or self-indulgent. What is he teaching us about wealth?

James is telling us that wealth has to be used ethically or else it will testify against us. To put things in perspective, we often think of wealthy people in the U.K. as having a huge home, nice cars, and at least £1 million+ in the bank. But by the world's standards, even the poorest people in the UK are wealthy. So, the call is not just to the privileged few but to all of us. This call is to all of us to use what we have ethically, wisely, and in a way that pleases God.

**Consider:** In what ways can you use what you have to be a blessing to others? In what ways has it been a challenge to you to use your wealth to bless others? What is hardest for you to let go of, money, time, or talents?

**Prayer:** As you pray take time to consider the following truth in what James says:

When Christians focus on God first and go after His righteousness, blessings will follow as a by-product.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February

Read : Ecclesiastes 5:10-12, 12:1, 13. Have you ever wanted more and more and more, but when you got more, you STILL weren't happy? That's because MONEY can't make us happy! There is only one thing that can make us happy and that is a relationship with Jesus Christ!

*Let's go back to basics. Here is a children's hymn which emphasizes that it is only Jesus who can make us truly happy!*

[https://youtu.be/KXrC\\_uzsnsg?si=7mg9XFfeynVHFRqk](https://youtu.be/KXrC_uzsnsg?si=7mg9XFfeynVHFRqk)

*The lyrics are simple : "Jesus loves me this I know For the Bible tells me so Little ones to Him belong They are weak, but He is strong Yes, Jesus loves me Yes, Jesus loves me Yes, Jesus loves me The Bible tells me so Jesus loves me He who died Heaven's gate to open wide He will wash away my sin Let His little child come in".*

