

November 18 Answers

- 1) James, the half-**brother** of Jesus, wrote a letter to the believing Jews scattered across the Roman Empire. Some of the key takeaways are: (1) Trials **refine** and **perfect** our faith. This is why James told his readers to “count it all **joy**” when they encountered various trials. We are called to rejoice, not in the evil which so often causes trials, but in the certainty that God is using our trials to **conform** us to the image of Christ (Rom 8:28–29). (2) The faith that saves **obeys**. James asked his readers, “What good is it if someone says he has faith but does not have **works**? Can that faith save him?” This means that it’s not enough for us to claim that we have faith in God. We must demonstrate our faith by how we **live**. When we obey God, we are “justified by works” in the sense that our works show that our faith is **genuine**. (3) The power of the **tongue**. The good news is that God’s grace is able to do what no man can do—it can **tame** our tongue. If we yield to the desires of the Spirit, God will help our speech to be “**gracious**, seasoned with salt” (Col 4:6). (4) Friendship with the world is **enmity** with God. The world is always trying to squeeze us into its **mold**. To avoid this, we must humble ourselves before God and submit to His will. Only then will we find the **grace** we need to resist the devil. (5) The importance of **endurance**. We are called to strengthen our heart in the Word and endure to the end by faith. If we remain steadfast like Job, then we will enjoy the final blessing of God’s compassion and **mercy**.