

Digging Deeper into James 1:21 – James’ Use of the Word “Save”

In James 1:21, he writes: “receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls” (ESV) James uses the word “save” five times in his epistle. The point of this exercise is consider these five different areas of life that James writes about.

Follow these steps to discovery:

PRAY with a thankful heart; ask Jesus to open your mind through the Spirit.

READ the verses are listed below; it’s better if you get your Bible and read them in context.

REFLECT In the five verses from James below, what aspects of this life does James say we need to be attentive to? Think of your life as a Christian. Why are these issues important and challenging for Christians and non-Christians alike?

RESPOND Does a particular verse(s) below speak to where you’re at now? Why? Give thanks to God for His gracious help and strength to you or someone you know in any of these areas. Pray that God would lead you, a friend or someone that you know, who needs your prayers, away from temptation in any of these areas.

James 1:21 (ESV)

²¹Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

James 2:14 (ESV)

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

James 4:12 (ESV)

¹²There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

James 5:15 (ESV)

¹⁵And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

James 5:20 (ESV)

²⁰let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.