

The High Life: The Upside of Being Down and Out

Deep End Faith | April 3, 2022 | James 1:9-11| Mike Foster

The upside of having less (v. 9)

An opportunity for dependence on Christ

An opportunity for rejoicing in Christ

An opportunity for serving Christ

The downside of having more (vv. 10-11)

Worldly wealth doesn't last

You fade away with it

Nurture a healthy and humble spiritual poverty

Beware of misplaced ambitions (Philippians 3:7)

Beware of misplaced affections (1 Timothy 6:10)

Give generously (2 Corinthians 8:1-7)

Invest eternally (Matthew 6:19-21)

Be rich in good deeds (1 Timothy 6:18)

Rehearse your need for Jesus (1 Timothy 1:12-17)

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9

Memory verse of the week: James 1:4

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. Share about a time when you were “down and out” but experienced the Lord doing wonderful things in you and for you.
3. Share about a person you know who was “poor in this world” but “rich in faith” and rich in the eyes of God. What do you admire most about this person?
4. Read James 1:9-11, along with James 5:1-6. Why does James seem to come on so strong toward this group called “the rich”?
5. What specific temptations come along with having more material resources? How can you guard against these temptations.
6. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19. How does God instruct those who are rich in this passage?
7. We talked about various ways to nurture a healthy and humble spiritual poverty. Why is this important? (Consider what David says in Psalm 86:1-4 or what Jesus says in Matthew 5:3 or Luke 5:31).
8. What does it look like for you to walk in humble dependence on the Lord? What are some specific things you do when you are living in dependence on the Lord?
9. Read Matthew 11:28-30, where Jesus is described as “gentle and lowly in heart.” What might it look like to become more “gentle and lowly in heart” like Jesus?
10. Read 2 Corinthians 8:9. What did Jesus do for us? Why? Have you received what He has done?

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10 and 17-19, Psalm 49, Matthew 6:19-21, 2 Corinthians 8:1-7, 1 John 2:15-17

Memorize James 1:4

Read this interview on “how to be rich” - <https://bit.ly/howtoberich-andystanley>

Read Gentle and Lowly by Dane Ortlund

Read The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn

Listen to “Better” - https://bit.ly/better_patbarrett

Listen to “Christ our Treasure” - <https://bit.ly/christourtreaure>

Listen to “Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me” <https://bit.ly/notibutchrist>

How to Connect with James deeper:

- **Study -**

Read James once a week until Easter – pick up one of our Scripture Journals to help you.



- **Memorize -**

Memorize James using the Scripture Memory Fellowship App.

Aim for one verse – James 1:2 or 1:25

Aim for one passage – James 1:2-4

Aim for 10 key passages – James 1:2-4, 1:13-15, 1:19-20, 1:22-25, 2:1, 2:26, 3:9-10, 3:17-18, 4:7-8, 5:16

Aim for one chapter – James 1

Aim for the whole book?!



- **Join -**

Join or start a small group to discuss James:
If you'd like to start one, please send an email to forcey-office@forcey.org



- **Invite -**

Prayerfully invite someone else to join us in our study of James – use our invite cards

- **Pray -**

Make a habit of kneeling in prayer, like James.
Pray for wisdom from God.

Pick up a wristband to remind you that your faith was made for the deep end