

# THE PASTOR'S *ESSENTIALS*®

OUR LIVES IN THE BIBLE - THE BIBLE IN OUR LIVES

<sup>13</sup> "ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT. <sup>14</sup> BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT.

MATTHEW 7:13-14

**es-sen-tials** (ĭ-sĕn'shəlz) – *noun* – those things that are necessary and basic to life. In biochemistry essentials are substances that are required for normal functioning but cannot be synthesized by the body and therefore must be included in the diet. Essentials are those things that are fundamental to the spiritual health of the professing Christian.

## *The Letter of James*

*A BIBLE STUDY*

### SESSION TWO

*James 1:1-1:27*

*Questions for Session Two*

1. Of the three or four possible writers, who is James? How does he describe himself in the opening verses of this epistle? To whom is this letter addressed?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why do you suppose *The Letter of James* begins with an immediate lesson regarding how the trials of our lives and the testing of our faith can make us stronger? Where are the greeting and the good wishes to the reader at the beginning?

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7. Describe the stages in the development of sin. Where does it begin? How does it end? How have some your desires led you down a path that has not ended well? If you did succumb to temptation, how did you finally get on the correct path?
  
8. Since deception is everywhere James warns against it, teaching the reader/hearer that all goodness and perfection come from above. What does he teach about the light from the stars, versus the light from the LORD? What are the first fruits? How does this term apply to the early Christians?
  
9. What does James teach regarding anger and what it produces? What does anger *not* produce? Of what two things must we rid ourselves? Once we humble ourselves, what will ultimately save us? Can we actively and willingly participate in having the Word planted inside of us? How is this possible?
  
10. What does James teach regarding being a *doer* of the Word, versus just being a *hearer* of God's Word? How damaging is the tongue? What does Scripture teach about controlling the tongue? What are the two things we should do because of our faith in the LORD? Why these two? How do we honor that command?

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