**How to Be Perfect**

Whole Bible Series

Sermon 51: James

McDonald Bible Methodist

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April 18, 2021

**SERMON NOTES**

*Biblical Perfection: completeness / wholeness - what you believe is fully integrated into how you live (see Matt 5:48; Eph 4:13; Phil 3:7-16)*

1. Examples from Jacob’s Wisdom (see 1:4, 22)
2. Remain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in trials (1:12-15; 5:7-11)
3. Listen \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ speaking (1:19-21)
4. Control your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! (1:26; 3:1-12)
5. Treat the rich and poor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2:1-13)
6. Care for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2:14-26)
7. Reject jealousy and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ambition (3:13-18)
8. Cultivate an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ heart (4:1-10)
9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ well of people (4:11-12)
10. Avoid the corruption of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (4:13-5:6)
11. Answer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (5:12)
12. Live a life of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (5:13-15)

*If your life doesn’t match what you say you believe, your faith is fake. – James (1:22, 26; 2:8, 17;4:1-4)*

1. Practical Tips for Growth
2. Completeness comes through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1:2-4)
3. Ask God, in faith, to produce growth in you (1:5-8)
4. Regularly compare your life with God’s Word (1:22-25)
5. Live with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (5:16)
6. Practice restoration (5:19-20)

**Questions for Small Groups or Individual Study**

1. Read James 1:2-4. In what do we take joy when we are faced with various trials? Discuss: If this is the thing that gives us joy and if it is God’s primary goal for our lives, how can we give it higher priority, so that we value it more than ease and comfort?
2. Review Jacob’s list of instructions on how to integrate our beliefs into our lives (reverse). Which one speaks most strongly to you as something you can work on?
3. Read the large, italicized statement. Have you seen someone like this? Have you ever lived this? What must be done for us to be change our faith from fake to genuine?
4. How do you regularly compare your life with God’s Word? What habits have you developed?
5. Why are we so averse to transparency?
6. Have you ever seen a church practice restoration? What did that look like?

**Prayer from James:** “Jesus, please help me to have genuine faith that is lived out. Please continue to show me how I can become more like you, and give me the grace to obey.”

**Answers:** steadfast, **before,** tongue, **equally,** needy, **selfish,** undivided, **Speak,** riches, **truthfully,** faith, **persistence,** transparency