

Praying Through James 3:1-18

International Bible Lesson

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Holy Father, through the Holy Spirit we praise and thank You for revealing Yourself truly to us in the Bible and in the life, death, and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ. We glorify Your Name, because in a world filled with darkness Your light shines and overcomes the darkness. We praise and thank You for giving us an interest in learning more about You through our study of the Bible. Help us share our deep love for You and Your Word with others so they will turn toward the light and walk in the paths of righteousness and peace that You have lighted. We thank You for Bible teachers and students eager to learn more about You and Your great love for us as demonstrated supremely by Jesus Christ. We pray for Your guiding Hand to be upon all who teach the Bible knowing that they are often judged more strictly.

Lord Jesus, we confess that we are far from perfect, but thank You that by the work of Your Spirit through Your Word we are growing daily into Your likeness. We thank You for making our forgiveness possible through Your death and resurrection. Apart from Your gracious influence and the teachings of the Bible, we would never be able to keep our bodies in check. Indeed, we confess that we have too often misused our tongues, and apart from You we cannot control our tongues. We need You to control our thoughts, words, and actions as Your Spirit applies Your teachings to us when we are tempted to sin in thought, word, and deed. Remind us of what we know from the Bible, and help us live humbly and truthfully as Christians. Help us to glorify You and point others to You and Your gifts rather than boast about ourselves or with selfish ambitions try to set ourselves above others. O Lord, we need You to fill our lives with joyfulness and an overflowing love that embraces others and draws them closer to You.

Heavenly Father, give us the wisdom and understanding we need to faithfully represent You as ambassadors of Jesus Christ. Help us live good lives with humility so others might see the glory and power of Jesus Christ and be drawn to saving faith in Him. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Please Note: I first learned about “Praying Through the Bible” from Edith Schaeffer, the wife of Francis Schaeffer. You might like to close your class with the above prayer as a way of beginning to teach your class how they too can pray through the Bible. First, you might like to teach your class how to pray through the *International Bible Lessons* each week. [Perhaps some of them would learn how to pray through portions of the Bible during their daily Bible reading and quiet time.] Second, a week in advance, perhaps some of your students would like to write their own “Prayer Through the Bible” using the *International Bible Lesson* scripture text and read their prayer at the close of class. Third, eventually, your students will be able to pray through the Bible without needing to write their prayer in advance before they pray at the end of class. If you would like to learn more about prayer from Edith Schaeffer, read [How God Teaches Us to Pray](#): Lessons from the Lives of Francis and Edith Schaeffer, Kindle Edition, by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.