

# The Epistle of James

---

This series of sermons was delivered from January of 2007 to July of 2007 from the pulpit of [Providence Reformed Church in Lodi, California](#) by Reverend Michael Voytek.

Reverend Voytek currently serves at [Rehoboth Reformed Church in La Habra, California](#).

## [True Faith Perseveres](#)

Reverend Michael Voytek | The Epistle of James

James 1:1-8; Proverbs 2:1-9

SUN 01/21/2007

After His resurrection, our Lord Jesus Christ commanded His followers to disciple all nations by teaching them to observe all that He commanded (Matt. 28:18-20). James attempted to fulfill this command in the book that bears his name.

**The outline of the sermon is as follows:**

- I. Jesus saves His unbelieving brother
- II. James writes to his scattered brethren
- III. Our calling to walk by faith in spite of difficulties

**Keywords — James faith obedience discipleship**

## [The Joy of Testing](#)

Reverend Michael Voytek | The Epistle of James

James 1:2-8; Deuteronomy 8:1-6; 1 Peter 4:12-19

SUN 01/28/2007

Trials and temptations are part of life. Yet they do not happen by chance but according to God's eternal plan and purpose. We must look with faith beyond them to the one who works all things together for our good and His glory.

**The outline of the sermon is as follows:**

- I. What are they?
- II. Why do they come?
- III. What do you need to do?

**Keywords — perseverance trials testing temptation**

## [Wisdom For The Tests](#)

Reverend Michael Voytek | The Epistle of James

James 1:5-8; Proverbs 9:1-10

SUN 02/04/2007

Through various trials and tests in life, our need for God's wisdom becomes increasingly evident. He does not leave us to struggle in the dark, but guides us to find it through prayer.

**The outline of the sermon is as follows:**

- I. What is this wisdom that we lack?
- II. Why we need it
- III. How we get it

**Keywords — wisdom trials testing temptation**

# The Epistle of James

---

## The Test Of Wealth And Poverty

Reverend Michael Voytek | The Epistle of James  
James 1:9-11; Proverbs 30:1-9  
SUN 02/11/2007

Our possessions (or the lack thereof) are tests of our faith. God is more interested in how we handle our poverty or prosperity than in the actual losses or gains. Where are your treasures stored? It is there that your heart will be also (see Matthew 6:21).

**The outline of the sermon is as follows:**

- I. The test of poverty
- II. The test of prosperity
- III. Rejoicing in the midst of the test

**Keywords — riches poverty poor testing trials**

## The Gifts That Overcome Temptation

Reverend Michael Voytek | The Epistle of James  
James 1:12-18; Genesis 3:1-8  
SUN 02/18/2007

During the testing of your faith, you are tempted to blame God for your failures. This is part of the test, whether you will rely on His gifts of grace or upon yourself. In Christ God has provided all things that pertain to life and godliness, but the question remains; Will you live by faith or unbelief?

**The outline of the sermon is as follows:**

- I. The goal of the test
- II. The challenge during the test
- III. The God-given resources to pass the test

**Keywords — testing trials temptations grace gifts**

## Testing The Tree By Its Fruit

Reverend Michael Voytek | The Epistle of James  
James 1:19-21; Proverbs 10:8-19  
SUN 03/04/2007

A tree is known by the type and quality of the fruit it produces. In the same manner, we can better understand the state of our souls by evaluating our lives using the Divine Standard (God's Word). Furthermore it is a powerful tool in the hands of the Holy Spirit to revive and restore us to fruitfulness.

**The outline of the sermon is as follows:**

- I. New life comes through the word of truth
- II. New life is confirmed by conformity to that word.
  - A. The hearing test
  - B. The speech test
  - C. The motivation test (actions)

**Keywords — testing trials temptations fruit**

# The Epistle of James

---

## Do God's Word

Reverend Michael Voytek | The Epistle of James  
James 1:21-27; Isaiah 1:10-20  
SUN 03/11/2007

When God speaks, He expects us to not only listen but also to do what He says. A rebellious servant is defined as one who knows his master's will and does not do it.

**The outline of the sermon is as follows:**

- I. How well do you receive God's word?
- II. How well do you do God's Word?
  - A. With your tongue
  - B. With your actions
  - C. With your heart

**Keywords — obedience listening hearing doing**

## Love Is Not Partial

Reverend Michael Voytek | The Epistle of James  
James 2:1-13; Exodus 23:1-9  
SUN 03/18/2007

God's love is unconditional. It is not based upon who we are or what we have done (or will do). He chose to love us before the creation of the world and calls us to love our fellow man in the same way, love without partiality.

**The outline of the sermon is as follows:**

- I. Faith is the chief thing
- II. Partiality the opposite of faith
- III. Love as faith in action

**Keywords — faith partiality obedience love acceptance**

## Our Sins, How Despicable!

Reverend Michael Voytek | The Epistle of James  
James 2:10-13  
SUN 04/01/2007

Like Adam attempting to hide his sin, we face the continual temptation to minimize our sin (avoiding embarrassment) against the thrice holy God. Fortunately, He extends mercy to those who confess their sin and seek forgiveness in His Son, Jesus Christ.

**The outline of the sermon is as follows:**

- I. "God requires perfection in every respect"
- II. Failure in part is failure in the whole
- III. "God, be merciful to me a sinner"

**Keywords — faith sin law transgression judgment love**

# The Epistle of James

---

## [A Profession Of Faith Without Love Is Worthless](#)

Reverend Michael Voytek | The Epistle of James

James 2:14-26; 1 Corinthians 15:1-12

SUN 04/08/2007

James confronts the vain confidence in a faith that does not save and at the same time teaches us the nature of true, saving faith, that is; a faith that works through love.

**The outline of the sermon is as follows:**

- I. What kind of faith do you have?
- II. The inadequacy of a mere profession of faith
- III. True, living faith that saves

[This sermon was preached on Easter Sunday, 2007]

**Keywords — faith resurrection love**

## [Discipleship Through Tongue Management, part 1](#)

Reverend Michael Voytek | The Epistle of James

James 3:1-12; Proverbs 12:13-22

SUN 04/15/2007

“Life and death are in the power of the tongue” (Proverbs 18:21). It has the power to kill or to bring healing. How will you exercise this God-given resource?

**The outline of the sermon is as follows:**

- I. Discipleship and the tongue
- II. The power of the tongue
- III. The danger of the tongue

**Keywords — faith tongue speech teaching teacher**

## [Discipleship Through Tongue Management, part 2](#)

Reverend Michael Voytek | The Epistle of James

James 3:1-12; Proverbs 12:13-22

SUN 04/22/2007

“Life and death are in the power of the tongue” (Proverbs 18:21). It has the power to kill or to bring healing. How will you exercise this God-given resource?

**The outline of the sermon is as follows:**

- I. Discipleship and the tongue
- II. The power of the tongue
- III. The danger of the tongue

**Keywords — faith tongue speech teaching teacher**

# The Epistle of James

---

## [Living Out the Meekness of Wisdom](#)

Reverend Michael Voytek | The Epistle of James  
James 3:13-18; Proverbs 2:1-22  
SUN 05/13/2007

James identifies the source of many of the conflicts that arise in our lives, specifically sins that arise in our sins. In the process, he contrasts the two types of wisdom that influence our actions and attitudes. What type of wisdom guides your life?

### **The outline of the sermon is as follows:**

- I. The need for wisdom in life
- II. False wisdom identified
- III. True, heavenly wisdom identified

**Keywords — wisdom heart faith**

## [Where Do Wars Come From?](#)

Reverend Michael Voytek | The Epistle of James  
James 4:1-6  
SUN 05/20/2007

James strongly warns us concerning the source of many of the conflicts that we face in life. He thoroughly examines the results and provides the remedy for this challenge.

### **The outline of the sermon is as follows:**

- I. His penetrating answer
- II. His examination of the results
- III. His warning and remedy

[This sermon is preceded by Scripture reading: Psalm 133 and Romans 7:1-25]

**Keywords — wars fighting lust sin**

## [Walk Humbly with Your God](#)

Reverend Michael Voytek | The Epistle of James  
James 4:7-10  
SUN 06/03/2007

After confronting the source of sin (self-centered living), James exhorts us to humbly submit to God with all that it entails.

### **The outline of the sermon is as follows:**

- I. Our problem - self-centered living
- II. God's solution – grace
- III. Our response - humble submission to God
  - a. Who is involved (looking behind the scenes)?
  - b. Gaining the victory through repentance
  - c. True repentance affects one's life
  - d. Humble living before the face of God

[This sermon is preceded by Scripture reading: Isaiah 1:10-18 and I Peter 5:1-11]

**Keywords — humility humble repentance**

# The Epistle of James

---

## [Keep Me Back From Presumptuous Sins](#)

Reverend Michael Voytek | The Epistle of James  
James 4:11-17; 1 Samuel 13:1-14  
SUN 06/10/2007

How easy and how often do we fall into the trap of assuming more authority than God have allotted to us. On the contrary, He calls us to loving, humble submission to Him which becomes evident through our loving service of others.

### **The outline of the sermon is as follows:**

- I. Presuming to be the Judge
- II. Presuming to be the Sovereign
- III. God alone is the Sovereign Judge over all things

[This sermon is preceded by Scripture reading]

**Keywords — humility humble repentance**

## [The Dangers Of Wealth](#)

Reverend Michael Voytek | The Epistle of James  
James 5:1-6; Luke 6:20-26  
SUN 06/17/2007

One of the tests of our faith is our management of the resources bestowed upon us. James warns us that there will come a day when we will give an account to the Lord for how we handled these resources.

### **The outline of the sermon is as follows:**

- I. The condemnation of the wealthy
- II. What are the dangers of wealth?
- III. How does this apply to me?

[This sermon is preceded by Scripture reading]

**Keywords — wealth riches money idols fathers**

## [Faith Waits](#)

Reverend Michael Voytek | The Epistle of James  
James 5:7-12; Psalm 40:1-10  
SUN 06/24/2007

In the midst of the various testings of our faith, we must fix our eyes on the one who will come again to judge the living and the dead. Our goal is patient endurance which is evidenced by both our words and our attitude.

### **The outline of the sermon is as follows:**

- I. Look up, your redemption draws nigh
- II. Living in the light of the parousia
  - A. Keeping eye contact
  - B. Watching our words

[This sermon is preceded by Scripture reading]

**Keywords — faith patience testing trials parousia return**

# The Epistle of James

---

## Prayer: Our High Calling

Reverend Michael Voytek | The Epistle of James

James 5:13-18

SUN 07/01/2007

God calls us to respond to the testings in our lives by turning to Him in prayer. Christ provided this privilege at great personal cost and He expects us to faithfully exercise this great privilege for the benefit of all mankind.

### **The sermon outline is as follows:**

- I. Our response to the tests of life
- II. God's provision for our need
- III. With privilege, comes responsibility

[This sermon is preceded by Scripture reading: I Kings 17:1-7 and 1 Kings 18:41-46]

**Keywords — prayer faith trials testing patience**

## God's Aggressive Love

Reverend Michael Voytek | The Epistle of James

James 5:19-20

SUN 07/08/2007

God aggressively loves His chosen in Christ. One of the ways He expresses that love today is through our calling to love and care for one another.

### **The sermon outline is as follows:**

- I. God's love through Christ
- II. God's love through James
- III. God's love through us

[This sermon is preceded by Scripture reading: 2Samuel 12:1-15 and Psalm 51:1-13]

**Keywords — love obedience repentance evangelism**