

## JAMES

### James 1

#### Greeting to the Twelve Tribes

1 James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad:

Greetings.

#### Profiting from Trials

- ★ **2** My brethren, **count it all joy when you fall into various trials,** **3** knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. **4** But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. **5** **If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God,** who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. **6** **But let him ask in faith, with no doubting,** for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. **7** **For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;** **8** **he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.**

#### The Perspective of Rich and Poor

**9** Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, **10** but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. **11** For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.

#### Loving God Under Trials

- ★ **12** **Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.** **13** Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. **14** **But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.** **15** **Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.**  
L **16** Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. **17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. **18** Of His own will He brought us forth **by the word of truth,** that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

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### Qualities Needed in Trials

**19** So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; 20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

### Doers—Not Hearers Only

- ★ **21** Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.
- 22** But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.
- Do **26** If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion *is* useless. 27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

## James 2

### Beware of Personal Favoritism

- 1 My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with partiality. 2 For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, 3 and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," 4 have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?
- L **5** Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world *to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?* 6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? 7 Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?
- 8** If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself,*" you do well; 9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. **10** For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all. 11 For He who said, "*Do not commit adultery,*" also said, "*Do not murder.*" Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. 12 So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. **13** For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.
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### Faith Without Works Is Dead

**14** What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of

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you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it profit?* **17** Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

- ★ **18** But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. **19** You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! **20** But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? **21** Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? **22** Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? **23** And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “*Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*” And he was called the friend of God. **24** You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

**25** Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent *them* out another way?

- ★ **26** For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

### James 3

#### The Untamable Tongue

**1** My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. **2** For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he *is* a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. **3** Indeed, we put bits in horses’ mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. **4** Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. **5** Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! **6** And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. **7** For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. **8** But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. **9** With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. **10** Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. **11** Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? **12** Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

#### Heavenly Versus Demonic Wisdom

- 13** Who *is* wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct *that* his works are *done* in the meekness of wisdom. **14** But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. **15** This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. **16** For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing are there. **17** But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. **18** Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.
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2:17-18 Faith without works = Not saved. No fruit = Not saved.

Works demonstrate Faith. Cause (Faith) → Effect (Works).

2:22 Faith [Cause] → Works [Effect]. Faith and works go together hand in hand.

3:18 Peacemakers bring forth fruit of righteousness.

James 4

**Pride Promotes Strife**

P **1** Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires for pleasure that war in your members?* **2** You *lust* and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. **3** You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. **4** Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. **5** Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”? **6** But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

*“God resists the proud,  
But gives grace to the humble.”*

**Humility Cures Worldliness**

★ **7** Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. **8** Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. **9** Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

**Do Not Judge a Brother**

**11** Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. **12** There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?

**Do Not Boast About Tomorrow**

★ **13** Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; **14** whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. **15** Instead you *ought* to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” **16** But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. **17** Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.

4:1 “desires”—The passionate desires for worldly pleasures that mark unbelievers (James 1:14; Eph. 2:3; 2 Tim. 3:4; Jude 18).

4:13 There is no tomorrow in ministry; there is only today. When God presents someone to you that needs ministry, do it today, not tomorrow. You may never see that person again.

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### James 5

#### Rich Oppressors Will Be Judged

1 Come now, *you* rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon *you!* 2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and **will eat your flesh like fire.** You have heaped up treasure in the last days. 4 Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and **the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.** 5 You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.

#### Be Patient and Persevering

7 Therefore be patient, brethren, **until the coming of the Lord.** See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. 8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for **the coming of the Lord is at hand.** 9 Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. **Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!** 10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. **11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure.** You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end *intended by* the Lord—that **the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.** **12** But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your “Yes” be “Yes,” and *your* “No,” “No,” lest you fall into judgment.

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#### Meeting Specific Needs

P H★ **13** Is anyone among you suffering? **Let him pray.** Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. **14** Is anyone among you sick? **Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.** **15** **And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.** **16** Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and **pray for one another, that you may be healed.** The effective, **fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.** 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

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#### Bring Back the Erring One

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R **19** Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, **20** let him know that **he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.**

5:15 “the prayer of faith will save the sick”

5:19-20 God’s forgiving grace is available to those who turn from their sins and exercise faith in the Lord Jesus.