

Survey of James

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1. James one of the “General” Epistles—no particular address or locality.
2. Author: the oldest brother of Jesus (Matt. 13:55) & leading overseer (Acts 12:17; Gal. 1:19).
3. James’ progression of faith: From no belief (Mk.3:21; Jn.7:2-8); to belief (1Cor.15:7); to leading believer (Acts 1:14).
4. James primarily writes to Jews: “the twelve tribes dispersed abroad” (1:1).
5. James was possibly the first of the New Testament books written, about 49 AD.

Outline: The Test of Faith (1:1-18)
 The Traits of Faith (1:19—5:6)
 The Triumph of Faith (5:7-20)

Main Points and Application

1. After a one verse greeting James immediately jumps into the benefits of trials (1:2, 12, 17).
2. When we need wisdom and insights where do we turn (1:5)? Would that be wrong or just insufficient? Why is it that this epistle begins and ends with prayer (1:5; 5:13-18)?
3. List all the things we are to do with the word of God in 1:21-25. How might this passage be used for Sabbath preparations during family devotions? In what ways would it be insufficient Sabbath preparation?
4. Don’t we all show partiality to different people differently (2:1-13)? How does God instruct us to change and why?
5. From 2:14-26 how do we explain that “good works” are not the *saving* of the elect but the *sign* of the elect?
6. Absolute perfection is reached how (3:2). But who can do it (3:8-12)? Can a person be a genuine Christian who is not regularly striving to control his tongue for the edification of God and man (1:26)?
7. What causes war, quarrels, and conflicts and what is the right relationship we are to have with the world (4:1-17)? What things must we do for peace and love with God and man? Is over-indulgence in pleasure sinful?
8. Evidently the Christian Jews James was writing to had a problem with generosity (5:1-6). What must we do to avoid their mistake? What is the place of prayer in overcoming our sin (5:7-20)?