

THE STUDY OF JAMES

This study is designed to encourage you to begin to develop a solid foundation for the book or epistle you are studying. In each study you will find a brief background on the book or letter, general themes found in the book, a list of key words found within the chapter and a set of questions can be answered directly from the verse provided at the end of the question.

Please plan to read the book or letter in its entirety first then begin the study. You will need a pen, a note pad, and your Bible. Once you've read through the entire book go back to the beginning and read the first chapter. Circle key words in that chapter. Compare your key words with the key words listed in the study. Now read the chapter again, and mark in your margin, key points. Jot down key points on your own note pad.

Answer the questions for chapter one. You will find the answer in the verse provided at the end of the question. When you have finished the questions, retitle the chapter. The names and subtitles are not divinely inspired but place there for to give clarity. This exercise will help you develop in your own mind, the important aspects of each chapter. Proceed in this fashion until you finish the course of study. You will find that when the study is repeated you will glean new and fresh revelation each time. Before you begin however, begin in prayer asking the Lord to give you revelation and understanding.

1. Read the entire book or epistle in one day if possible.
2. Next, read the 1st chapter marking all key words.
3. Compare your key words with those listed in the study.
4. Make a note in the margin of the key points in each chapter
5. Jot down the key points on your own note pad.
6. Read the chapter again.

7. Answer the questions for each chapter and retitle the chapter.

When you complete the study you should have a solid foundational understanding of what the author was conveying through the power of the Holy Spirit. Small group studies or Sunday school classes will find it extremely helpful to allow for open discussion after each chapter. Plan on covering one half a chapter per week if you do have discussion. If you are not in a small group or Adult Bible Fellowship, then you may want to encourage a friend to join you in your study. Now let's begin.

Background

James was written by the half brother of Jesus somewhere between 42 and 68 BC. before the first Christian Council. There were 4 James (2 disciples and this James who was not a disciple (I Cor 15:7, Matt 10:2-3) Judas' father was also James.

James became the leader at the church in Jerusalem (Acts 12:17, 15:13-21, Gal 1:19, 2:9) He apparently was an unbeliever during Jesus ministry, (John 7:3-5) but is numbered with the believers in Acts 1:14.

He wrote the epistle to the 12 tribes of Israel, the Jewish Christians who had been dispersed, to encourage them in genuine faith, validation of the Christian experience, and godly living.

The epistle is the chief of the 5 epistles called "general" or "catholic" which were not addressed to individual churches but to Christians in general. It is sometimes considered to be an interpretation of Old Testament Law and the Sermon on the Mount.

Four James

James, son of Zebedee and brother of John, the evangelist (Mark 5:37, Matt 4:21, Mark 1:19, Luke 5:10) A fisherman called by Christ (Mt 4:17-22 Mark 1:19, Luke 5:10) who later became an apostle (Mt 10:2). Together with

John, they were nicknamed "Sons of Thunder" because of their impulsiveness (cf. Mk 3:17 with Lk 9:51-56). He was killed by Herod in 44 A.D. (Ac 12:1-2).

James, son of Alphaeus

James the Less who was another one of the apostles (Mt 10:3; Mark 3:18 Luke 6:15, Ac 1:13), about whom very little is known. He may be "James the younger," whose mother, Mary, was among the women at Jesus' crucifixion and tomb (Mt 27:56; Mk 15:40; 16:1; Lk 24:10). In Jn 19:25, this Mary is called the wife of Cleophas, perhaps to be identified with Alphaeus.

James, father of Judas the apostle - Even more obscure, one of the few references to him is Lk 6:16.

James, the brother of our Lord - A half-brother of our Lord (Mt 13:55), who did not believe in his brother at first (Jn 7:5). He became a disciple following the resurrection (1 Co 15:7; Ac 1:14) and gained prominence in the church at Jerusalem (Ga 2:9). As evidence of his prominence, Peter sent him a special message following his own release from prison (Ac 12:17). James also played an important role in the conference at Jerusalem (Ac 15:13-33), and Paul brought him greetings upon arriving at Jerusalem (Ac 21:18-19).

Themes

Duty over doctrine: pure and undefiled religion, godly living, emphasizes duty rather than doctrine

Faith, riches pride, the tongue and prayer

Chapter 1

Confident Stand

1. Who wrote this epistle? vs 1

2. What does the term bondservant mean? Ex
3. Who was this epistle written to? vs 1
4. We should count it all joy when we face_____. vs 2
5. The testing of your faith produces _____. vs 3
6. Endurance will help you become _____, lacking _____. vs 4
7. Wisdom is obtained by asking God for it. How does God answer this request? vs 5
8. How should we ask for wisdom? vs 6
9. How does doubt resemble the sea, according to James? vs 6
10. If a man is double-minded, what can he expect from his prayer life? vs 8
11. How should both the poor man of humble circumstances and the rich man look at their position in life? vs 9-11
12. What will those of us who perseveres under trial receive? vs 12
13. Can God tempt man? vs 13
14. When you have been tempted it is by your own_____. vs 14
15. Lust leads to _____vs 15
16. Sin when it is full grown brings about _____. vs 16
17. Where does every perfect gift come from? vs 17

18. What does it mean to be the first fruits of creation? vs 18
19. We should be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger. Why? vs 19-20
20. What can the implanted word do? vs 21
21. We are called to be doers, not just hearers. What do hearers do to themselves? vs 22
22. Hearers are like what? vs 23-24
23. If we abide by the perfect law of liberty, James writes that we are _____ vs 25
24. How is the tongue and religion connected? vs 26
25. What is pure and undefiled religion according to James? vs 27

Key Words

Dispersion 1:1 Acts 2:5-11
Dispersion Acts 2:5-9, Acts 26:6
12 tribes
Divers Temptation
Testing
Purpose for Testing Ro 5:3
Crown of Life
First fruits of Creation

Dispersion

Some believe this is the dispersion that occurred because of the persecution of Stephen as recorded in Acts 8:4-40. Others believe this is in reference to those who were driven into Assyria, Babylon, Egypt and other kingdoms of the world.

Testing

Write out the following verses.

Ja 1:2-2:26

I Pe 1:7, 4:1-19

I Co 4:9-13

II Cor 6:3-10, 11:23-33, 12:7

Tested Faith

- ❖ Brings character Ro 5:3-5
- ❖ Enables us to comfort and encourage one another II Cor. 1:3-5
- ❖ Increases our dependance on God for wisdom Ja 1:5, 3:17-18
- ❖ Encourages us to lead a productive and effective life II Pe 1:5-9
- ❖ Helps us to identify with Christ Matt 4:1-11, He 5:7-10
- ❖ Helps us to focus on our future hope in Christ Ro 8:18-24

Two Paths

There is a path before each person that seems right, but its end is death. Prv 14:12

Satan's way: desire leads to temptation, temptation to lust/sin, habitual sin, then death

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." John 14:6

God's way: Trial, faith, obedience, perseverance, and then Crown of Life

Key Points

Trials, testing, and tribulations come. God allows these for the testing of our faith. We learn to endure so that we might be made complete, while being

patient when we are tested. Tested faith will prove to be strong, builds our character and enables us to help others through their trials.

Chapter 2

Compassionate Service

1. What is personal favoritism? vs 1-3
2. If you show personal favoritism, what have you become according to James? vs 4
3. Did God choose the poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs to the kingdom? vs 5
4. What can you conclude from vs 6 -7?
5. We are commanded to love our neighbors as ourselves. If we show partiality are we dismissing the command to love our neighbors as ourselves? vs 8-9
6. Sin is sin according to vs 11-12. So how should we speak and act? vs 12
7. Mercy triumphs over judgment. What does this mean? vs 13
8. What is the connection between faith and works? vs 14
9. Vs 15-16 demonstrate faith without works. How productive is faith alone according to these scriptures?
10. Faith without works is _____. vs 17

11. Faith without works compared to “faith by my works” is an example of dead religion and faith in action. vs 18
12. God is one. Look at Duet 6:4, Mark 12:29
13. What do demons know about God and what do they do? vs 19
14. Faith was perfected in Abraham by his works. How was his faith proven out? vs 20-23
15. James stresses that a man is justified by works and not faith alone. How did Rehab demonstrate this truth? vs 24-25
16. The body without the spirit is _____vs 26
17. Faith without works is _____vs 26

Jesus answered, “The foremost is, ‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; Mark 12:19

Key Words

Partiality
Favoritism
Mercy over judgment
Perfect law of liberty
Dead faith
Pure religion

Favoritism

Why is it wrong to show favoritism to the wealthy?

1. It is inconsistent with the teachings of Christ.
2. It results from evil thoughts.

3. It insults people made in God's image.
4. Its a by-product of selfish motives.
5. It goes against the biblical definition of love.
6. It shows a lack of mercy to those less fortunate.
7. It is hypocritical.
8. It is sin.

Key Points

Favoritism is wrong. Jesus showed no partiality. He loved equally and that is our challenge today. The rich, the poor and the indifferent will all have the same outcome as far as treasures go. We will store up treasures for heaven, or they will rust and rot away here on this earth. James teaches is that mercy triumphs over judgment, therefore abstain from judgment because that belongs to the Lord. He goes on to explain that faith alone has no value and real faith will be backed up with works.

Chapter 3

Careful Speech

1. What awaits the teacher? vs 1
2. If anyone does not stumble he is a _____ able to do_____. vs 2
3. A bit can be used to direct the body of a horse. How does this word picture help us to see the importance of our words? vs 3
4. What is the purpose of the small rudder on a ship? vs 4
5. How does the tongue compare to a small rudder on a boat or a bit in the horses mouth? vs 5
6. The tongue is compared to a fire. What can it do to the body? vs 6

7. How difficult is it to tame the tongue. vs 7-8

8 James writes, it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. What steps can you take to avoid the fires? vs 9

9. What comes out of the mouth as it relates to others? vs 9-11

10 James compares our words, the use of our tongue to fresh and brackish waters, in which we can bless or curse. What should we remember to do? vs 11

12. James also the olive and fig tree, meaning you will produce like kind. How does this encourage you to strive to be fruitful in your speech? vs 12

13. Who is wise? The wise will show by their good behavior and deeds in gentleness of wisdom. How does this relate to faith and works? vs 13

13. Bitter jealousy and selfish ambition is earthly, natural, demonic according to James. Should we be careful to reject these kinds of thoughts? vs 14-16

14. Where do these thoughts come from? vs 15

15 you will find _____ and _____ when there is jealousy and selfish ambition. vs 16

16. Wisdom from above is first pure, peaceable, gentle reasonable, full of mercy, and good fruits, unwavering and _____. vs 17

17. The fruit of righteousness is sown by those who make _____. vs 18

Key Words

Fruit
Rudder, bit, and fire
Jealousy
Selfish ambition
Wisdom
Demonic

Key Points

We have a challenge to control our tongues, which are violently wicked if left unchecked. Also, James encourages the reader to abstain from jealousy, selfish ambition, and envy because they are worldly emotions that can have a demonic component. He also encourages us to be careful how we use our tongue, and to pray for wisdom.

Chapter 4

Contrite Submission

1. Quarrels and conflicts come from where? vs 1
2. Lust and envy are examples of wanting something you do not have. James says that you do not have it because you _____. vs 2
3. Wrong motives when asking for something will guarantee that you will not receive it. What did you intend to do with it (what you were asking for) vs 3
4. Friendship with the world is _____ with God. vs 4
5. He made the Spirit to dwell in us but because of selfish motives we are quenching the very Spirit of God. True or false? vs 5
6. God opposes the proud but gives _____ to the humble. vs 6

7. We are to submit to God, resist the devil and what will he do? vs 7
8. If we draw near to God, what will He do? vs 8
9. We are to cleanse our hands and purify our heart. How? vs 8
10. We are to mourn. Is James speaking of godly grief over our sins, which will lead us to repentance? vs 9
11. If we humble ourselves, what will God do? vs 10
12. If we speak against a brother, what do we become? vs 11
13. There is only one Lawgiver and judge. If you agree, what must you personally refuse to do? vs 12
14. We should consider the day, because we have no guarantee of tomorrow, therefore it is proper to say, "if the Lord wills". Do you think in these terms on a day to day basis? vs 13-15
15. If you know the right thing to do but does not do it, what is this? vs 16

Key Words

Conflicts
Quarrels
Lusts
Envy
Wrong motives
Hostility toward God
Proud
Humble
Submit

Judge

Key Points

Friendship with the world is enmity to God. Our struggles often come from our own desires as well as desires for what someone else has. We do ask God, but we ask with wrong motives, therefore we do not receive the thing we ask for. James encourages us to draw near to God, resist the devil and he will flee. We are also reminded that God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Chapter 5

Concerned Sharing

1. The rich have stored up their treasures. What will happen to those treasures? vs 1-3
2. Withholding what rightfully belongs to someone else is an example of how God can respond when those whom you have cheated calls out to Him against you. How will He respond? vs 4
3. How do those who are rich live? vs 5
4. Oftentimes, the rich will drag you into court, and they will also condemn the righteous man. Is this a judgment against the rich or an evil act? vs 6
5. James exhorts the righteous to be patient and wait for the day of the Lord. Who then, is judge? vs 7-8
6. James encourages us not to complain against another brother. Why? vs 9

7. The prophets of old were an example of suffering and patience. How should this effect our daily life? vs 10
8. The Lord is compassionate and merciful. Can we learn from the life of Job, what the Lord can do? vs 11
9. We are to let our yes be “yes” and our no be “no”. Why? vs 12
10. If you are suffering, you should_____. vs 13
11. If you are cheerful, you should _____. vs 13
12. If you are sick you should_____.vs 13 and let them _____ over you, anointing you in the name of the Lord. vs 14
13. The prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is _____.and the Lord will raise him up and if he has committed any sins, they will be _____. vs 15
14. Should we confess our sins one to another? vs 16
15. Should we pray for one another so that we may be healed? vs 16
16. The effective prayer of a righteous man _____ much. vs 16
17. Elijah prayed earnestly. It did not pray for 3 ½ years. What does that teach us about the power of prayer? vs17
18. He prayer again and what happened? vs 18
19. One who turns another from sin, covers a _____ of sin and saves his soul from _____. vs 19-20

Key Words

Treasures

Lord of the Sabbath
Condemned
Righteous
Patient
Complain
Endure
Swear
Suffering
Prayer

Key Points

There is power in prayer and confession. We see that clearly throughout this chapter. We are commanded to pray and confess as a body of believers this should be our way of life. We also should recognize that God and God alone is judge, therefore we are not to grumble and complain about another brother or sister in Christ. Suffering and patience are part of our Christian experience and we are called to learn from Job.

Praying to Get Answers (vs 1:6)

1. Pray to the Father Jn 16:23
2. Pray in the name of Jesus Jn 14:12-15
3. Pray in the power of the Holy Spirit Ro 8:26
4. Pray with full understanding of rights and privileges I Cor 14:14-15
5. Pray in harmony with the scriptures Jn 15:7
6. Pray in faith not doubting vs Ja 1:6
7. Pray with praise for the answer Phil 4:6

12 Reasons for Unanswered Prayer

1. Lusts v 1, 2, 3, 5: Jn 8:44
2. Murderous v2

3. Covetousness v2
4. Fighting and warring v2
5. Asking amiss (wrong motive) to satisfy lusts v3
6. Adulteries v4
7. Friendship with the world
8. Pride v6
9. Rebellion against God v7
10. Backsliding and sin v7
11. Double mindedness or doubt v8
12. Misused of the tongue vs 11-12

Blocks to Prayer Throughout Scripture

Pride II Chronicles 32:24

Lack of discipline I Peter 4:7

Wrong motives (hypocrites pious) Matt 6:5-6

Asking wrongly for selfish motives James 4:3

Broken Vows James 5:12, Ps 15:1-4

Husbands who do not love their wives, marital discord I Peter 3:7

Unforgiveness Mark 11:25

Idolatry Ezekiel 14:3

Unconfessed sin Psalms 66:18

Doubt James 1:5-7

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