

JAMES:
Consider It All Joy

By Frank Jamerson

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Spiritual "equipment" for the contest of life.

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Lesson 1

James - Introduction and 1:1-4

- A. The Author - James, but which one?
1. The son of Zebedee - was one of the earliest chosen disciples (Mark 1:19), brother of John and one of the apostles, Matthew 4:21; Luke 5:10. He was killed by Herod in about 42-44 A.D. (Acts 12:1-5), therefore is not considered as a likely author of the epistle.
 2. The son of Alphaeus - also called *the Less*, and *the Just*, was also an apostle, Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13. The writer of James does not identify himself as an apostle, but some think that he may have been the author.
 3. The father of Judas (not Iscariot), Luke 6:16. There is no other information about him; therefore no one regards him as the author of James.
 4. The Lord's brother, Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3.
 - a. He was not a believer at first (John 7:5), but appears among the believers after the resurrection, Acts 1:14.
 - b. Jesus had half brothers and sisters - He was Mary's firstborn Son (Luke 2:7); Joseph "did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son," Matthew 1:25.
 - c. The general consensus is that he was the author of the epistle.
- B. To whom was it written?
1. The twelve tribes scattered abroad - probably referred to Jewish Christians who had been scattered, Acts 8:4; John 7:35; 1 Peter 1:2. It is not likely that it was written to non-believing Jews.
 2. It may refer to Christians scattered throughout the world - whether Jew or Gentile.
 - a. The true Jew today is the Christian, Romans 2:28, 29.
 - b. Abraham's descendants are the obedient, Romans 4:11, 12; Galatians 3:28, 29; 6:16.
 3. Regardless of which is correct, the message is applicable to all Christians.
- C. The date of the book has been placed between 44 and 65 A.D., probably 44 or 45. Josephus says that James was martyred in A.D. 62.

D. Outline of the book:

JAMES: THE TRUE STANDARDS OF LIVING

I. Salutation	1:1
II. The Nature of True Religion	1:2-27
Stability	1:2-11
Endurance	1:12-18
Action	1:19-27
III. The Nature of True Faith	2:1-3:12
Avoidance of Discrimination	2:1-13
Avoidance of Inactive Profession	2:14-26
Avoidance of Boastful Officiousness	3:1-12
IV. The Nature of True Wisdom	3:13-5:18
Wisdom Defined	3:13-18
Wisdom in Spiritual Life	4:1-10
Wisdom in Legal Relationships	4:11, 12
Wisdom in Commercial Plans	4:13-17
Wisdom in Labor Problems	5:1-6
Wisdom in Waiting for the Lord	5:7-11
Wisdom in Language	5:12
Wisdom in Affliction	5:13-18
V. Conclusion: The Purpose of Wisdom - An Effective Testimony	5:19, 20

“James, like the book of Proverbs in the Old Testament, deals with practical application of truth to everyday situations. In vivid homely language it sets forth the ethical requirements of the Christian life” (**The New Testament: A Survey**, by Merrill C. Tenney, page 278).

E. Salutation, 1:1.

1. Servant - (*doulos*) is one who gives himself totally to the will and desires of another without hesitation. It is not a forced slavery, but a joyful service, Philippians 2:7; Galatians 1:10; 1 Peter 2:16.
2. A servant is not greater than his master (John 13:16); must not strive (2

Every day wisdom...

Timothy 2:24); has been purchased with a price (1 Corinthians 6:20); must be righteous, Romans 6:16-18; Matthew 25:21, 23.

- F. A tried faith produces perfection, 1:2-4.
1. Two ways to view trials:
 - a. Count it all tragedy.
 - b. Count it all joy.
 2. Patience - *hupo* (under), and *meno* (to abide) – an abiding under, or staying power.
 3. The result - *that you may be perfect and complete*.
 - a. Perfect (*teleios*) “signifies having reached its end, finished, complete” (Vine).
 - b. Complete (*holokleros*) *sound in every part* - just as a puzzle is complete when all its parts are together.
 - c. As a pearl is produced through friction, patience is produced through trials.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. Which James did Herod kill?
2. Which one wrote this epistle?
3. Prove that Mary had other children after Jesus was born.
4. To whom was the book written?
5. Who is Abraham’s seed today?

