

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. James is part of the books of the "General Epistles" (Letters written to instruct).
2. James is written to (and sent to) the 12 tribes scattered abroad.
  - a. These tribes were not "lost."
  - b. The Gentile church did not replace these tribes.
3. James is the human author. He is brother to Jude and half-brother to our Lord Jesus Christ.  
*2 Peter 1:20, 21*  
*20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.*  
*21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*
4. The design (plan) of the book is practical instruction.
  - a. Some people think that James contradicts Paul concerning faith.
  - b. James defines faith. James discusses how faith is tested.
5. The book of James is grouped into 3 subjects:
  - a. Verses 1-12: The reasons for tests or trials in the Christian's life.
  - b. Verses 13-18: The source of temptation – Where temptation comes from
  - c. Verses 19-27: Christians should be doers of the Word (not only hearers).

**I. The purpose of test or trials in the Christian's life: vs. 1-4**

- A. Testing works patience
- B. Patience produces Christian growth – maturity.

**II. What should the Christian do if he/she needs wisdom to act God's way while going through a trial? vs. 5 - 8**

- A. Ask God for wisdom (God, how should I act? What should I do?)
- B. Ask in faith (Believe God will give you the answer.)
- C. Don't waver. Be steady. Don't move up and down like an ocean wave.
- D. Be focused. A double-minded man is unstable. You cannot serve two masters.

**III. The Christian must endure temptation: vs. 9-12**

- A. The humble brother in Christ is exalted. How? By enduring temptation.
- B. The rich person can become humble. How? By enduring temptation:
- C. The Lord promises a crown of life to those that love Him – to those that endure temptation.

**IV. The source – temptation comes from: vs. 13 -16**

- A. God is not tempted with evil, and God will not use evil to tempt a person.
- B. Man is tempted when he is drawn away by his own lust. Lust produces sin. Sin brings death.

**V. The source – where every perfect gift comes from: vs. 17-20**

- A. All good things come from God, the Father of lights.
- B. God never changes. God's Word does not change.

**VI. The source – where every perfect gift comes from: vs. 21-24**

- A. Receive with meekness the engrafted word (the Word that is put in your heart), which is able to save your souls. **WE ARE SAVED THROUGH THE ENGRAFTED WORD OF GOD!**
- B. Hear the Word. Receive the Word in your heart. Do the Word.
- C. If you hear, but you don't do what the Word says, you deceive yourself.
- D. If the Word is received, faith becomes active.
- E. Practice PURE religion!
  1. Visit the orphans and widows.
  2. Keep yourself unspotted (keep yourself pure) from the world.