

## NT Lesson James

**Author** – James the Just, probably the brother of Jesus and leader of the Jerusalem council (Acts 15). He was executed / martyred in A.D. 62.

**Date** – Possibly from early or mid A.D. 40's to early A.D. 60's

**Recipient** – “the twelve tribes in the Dispersion.” (ESV) or “the twelve tribes scattered among the nations.” (NIV)

Probably written when the church was still mainly Jewish Christians.

Known as a General Letter – addressed to general audiences rather than to specific persons (ex. Timothy) or localized groups (ex. Galatians).

### **Applications & Themes –**

The problem James addresses is the problem we face when things do not go as we would like them to go or as we have planned. What do you do when faced with problems? James answers - **Face trials w/ joy**

What do you do when you don't know what to do? **God gives wisdom**

**Emphasis on vital Christianity, good deeds and a faith that works. Works are not a condition of salvation but it is a result.**

**Living out one's faith, being a doer and not just a hearer of the Word. True living faith produces fruit.**

**Saving Faith:**

**Faith requires content** –the intellectual knowledge of the basic teachings of Christianity = knowledge of Jesus Christ as the eternal Son of God who became man & died on the cross for our salvation.

**Faith requires our agreement to that content/PERSONAL RESPONSE** –

“I believe that Jesus died on the cross for me that I might be saved”

**Faith involves trust or commitment** – commitment to follow Jesus Christ as His disciple

(a person who doesn't might say “I believe it but I have my own life to live”)

**Addressed troubles, conflict from fighting groups in the church**

**Addressed Christians who had become worldly and did not put their faith into practice, called "double-minded"**

**Future judgment and reward**

### **Key Verses:**

1:2-3 Count it all joy, my brothers, <sup>[b]</sup> when you meet trials<sup>[E]</sup> of various kinds, for you know that<sup>[G]</sup> the testing of your faith<sup>[H]</sup> produces steadfastness.

1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom,<sup>[K]</sup> let him ask God,<sup>[L]</sup> who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

1:23-24 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

4:8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.<sup>[U]</sup>

5:16 The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

**(King James Version)** 5:16 The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

### **Discussion Questions**

How do you respond to problems & trials?

When have you asked God for wisdom?

How often do you apply what you've learned in the Bible?

What are some examples of how a person's words can destroy.

What causes people to fight?

## **James Outline**

- 1:1            Greeting**
- 1:2-18        Testing of Your Faith**
- 1:19-27      Hearing and Doing the Word**
- 2:1-13        The Sin of Partiality**
- 2:14-26      Faith Without Works Is Dead**
- 3:1-12        Taming the Tongue**
- 3:13-18      Wisdom from Above**
- 4:1-12        Warning Against Worldliness**
- 4:13-17      Boasting About Tomorrow**
- 5:1-6         Warning to the Rich**
- 5:7-12        Patience in Suffering**
- 5:13-20      The Prayer of Faith**