

INTRODUCTION TO JAMES

Welcome to another TCT-TV's "School of the Bible" study. That you are joining in this study of James is a great joy. We pray that it will be of significant benefit in your Christian growth and maturity. Rev. Beverly Hills and Dr. Grady Etheridge will share from their years of walking with Jesus Christ to help you gain from the wealth of information stowed within this book of the Holy Bible.

The KEY VERSE of James is 1:4b is clearly having to do with the development of mature believers in Jesus Christ. The key theme is "*...so that you may be (people) perfectly and fully developed (with no defects) lacking in nothing.*"

James claims to be the writer of this book. With five James in the New Testament, there is a question. Most Bible sources agree only two are possible as the writer. They are: James, son of Zebedee (martyred in A.D. 44, Matt. 10:2; Acts 12:2); and, James, the Lord's brother (Matt. 13:55; Acts 1:14; died in 66 A.D.) James, Son of Alphaeus, an apostle; James, the father of the apostle, Judas Lk. 6:16; and, James, the less (younger or smaller) Mk. 15:40 were the other James in the scriptures. James comments in Acts 15, his authority, and the similar writing in the book of James point to the Lord's brother as author.

The letter is written to the Jews living outside the land of Palestine. The twelve tribes were scattered and would be the only group to whom this phrase would apply as pointed out in Acts 26:7. The date of writing traditionally is from the middle forties to early sixties, just before the Lord's brother, James, died.

Christian Jews, scattered throughout the Roman Empire, were having problems just like we do today. Some were poor, some were oppressed by others with means, many had problems in their personal lives, and others experienced discord with "brethren." Trials, temptations and money problems lace this practical teaching on Christian living for the early Jewish believer.

The theme is one of encouragement for becoming the victorious, mature Christian believer showing forth Jesus Christ. It is an exhortation to steadfastness and patience. Many scriptures support this theme: Joshua 23:7,8; Job 11:14-15; I Cor. 15:58; Gal. 5:1; Phil 1:27; I Peter 5:4; 2 Peter 3:17.

We are encouraged to endure and persevere: Job 17:9; John 15:9; Gal 6:9; Heb. 12:1; I Peter 1:13; Rev. 3:11.

We are warned against instability and one cause of it, double mindedness. Prov. 24:21; Jer. 2:36; Hos. 6:4; Eph. 4:14; Heb. 13:9; James 1:6; II Ki. 17:33; Zeph 1:4,5; Luke 16:13; I Cor. 10:21; James 1:8-4:8; Ps. 12:2-3. May you become more decisive during this study! I Ki. 18:21; II Ki. 17:41; Hos. 10:2; Luke 9:62.

JAMES-GUIDE FOR MATURE BELIEVERS

I. INTRODUCTION TO JAMES

II. BELIEVERS, BECOME MATURE. Time to grow up

James 1:1

III. MATURE BELIEVERS FACE TRIALS & TEMPTATIONS

A. FROM WITHOUT-TURNING TRIALS INTO TRIUMPHS

James 1:2-12

1. Count-A Joyful Attitude James 1:2
2. Know-An Understanding Mind James 1:3
3. Let-A Surrendered Will James 1:4, 9-11
4. Ask-A Believing Heart James 1:5-8

B. FROM WITHIN-HANDLING TEMPTATION James 1:13-18

1. God's Required Principles for Victory over: 1:13-16
 - a. Desire 1:14
 - b. Deception 1:14
 - c. Disobedience 1:15
 - d. Death 1:15
2. Consider God's Goodness James 1:17
 - a. God Gives Only Good Gifts
 - b. The Way God Gives is Good
 - c. He Gives Constantly
 - d. God Does Not Change
3. Consider God's Divine Nature Within James 1:18
 - a. It is Divine-God's character of righteousness
 - b. It is Gracious
 - c. It is Through God's Word
 - d. It is the Finest Birth Possible. It is salvation! John 3:16

IV. THE MATURE AVOID SELF-DECEPTION-PATIENT VIEW OF LIFE. (QUIT KIDDING YOURSELF) James 1:19-27

A. Receive the Word James 1:19-21

1. Swift to Hear 1:19
2. Slow to Speak 1:19
3. Slow to wrath 1:19
4. A Prepared Heart 1:21

B. Practice the Word 1:22-25

1. Examination 1:23-25
2. Restoration
3. Transformation II Cor 3:18

C. Share the Word James 1:26-27

1. Speech 1:27 and a life of
2. Separation 1:27b

V. MATURE BELIEVER PRACTICES PRACTICAL

RELATIONSHIPS VIEW OF RICH MAN, POOR MAN James 2: 1-13

- A. Jesus Christ as example of deity James 2:1-4
 - 1. Jesus did not treat persons with partiality
 - 2. Jesus was despised and rejected
- B. The Grace of God James 2:5-7
- C. The Word of God James 2:8-11
- D. The Judgment of God James 2:12-13
 - 1. Our words will be judged
 - 2. Our deeds will be judged
 - 3. Our attitudes will be judged 2:13

VI. MATURE BELIEVERS PRACTICE DYNAMIC FAITH NOT

FALSE FAITH James 2:14-26

- A. Dead Faith James 2:14-17
- B. Demonic Faith James 2:18-19
- C. Dynamic-Dynamite Faith James 2:20-26

VII. USE OF THE BELIEVER'S TONGUE—TONGUE IS SMALL—BUT

MAY BE HUGE TROUBLEMAKER James 3:1-12

- A. Power to Direct: The Bit and Rudder James 3:1-4
- B. Power to Destroy: the Fire and Animal James 3:5-8
- C. Power to Delight: The Fountain and Tree James 3:9-12

VIII. MATURE BELIEVER'S SOURCE OF WISDOM James 3:13-18

- A. Origins of Wisdom-Contrasted James 3:15, 17a
- B. Operations of enemy exposed James 3:13-14, 17
 - 1. Envy 3:14
 - 2. Strife 3:14
 - 3. Boasting 3:14
 - 4. Deceit 3:14
- C. Operations of Mature Believers James 3:17
 - 1. Meekness 3:13
 - 2. Purity 3:17
 - 3. Peace 3:17
 - 4. Gentleness 3:17
 - 5. Compliance 3:17
 - 6. Mercy 3:17
 - 7. Good Fruit 3:17
 - 8. Decisiveness 3:17
 - 9. Sincerity 3:17
- D. Outcomes from two sources—It's your choice James 3:16, 18
 - 1. Worldly wisdom produces trouble James 3:16
 - 2. God's wisdom produces blessing James 3:18

IX. MATURE BELIEVERS WILL END WARS James 4:1-12

- A. End War with Each Other James 4:1, 11-12
 - 1. Class Wars 2:1-9
 - 2. Employment Wars 5:1-6
 - 3. Church fights 1:19-20; 3:13-18
 - 4. Personal wars 4:11-12
- B. End War with Ourselves James 4:1b-3
- C. End War with God James 4:4-10
 - 1. The Mature Believer has challenges from:
 - a. The world 4:4
 - b. The flesh 4:1,5
 - c. The devil 4:6-7
 - 2. The Mature Believer's victories are gained by:
 - a. Submit to God 4:7
 - b. Draw near to God 4:8
 - c. Humble yourselves before God 4:9-10

X. THE MATURE BELIEVER PLANS AHEAD James 4:13-17

- A. Danger of Ignoring God's Will James 4:13-14, 16
 - 1. The Complexity of life 4:13
 - 2. The Uncertainty of life 4:14a
 - 3. The Brevity of life 4:14b
 - 4. The frailty of man 4:16
- B. Danger of Disobeying God's Will James 4:7
- C. Faithfully Obeying God's Will 4:15
 - 1. God wants us to understand His will Eph 5:17
 - 2. Prove God's Will Rom 12:2
 - 3. Do God's Will from the Heart Eph 6:6

XI. THE MATURE BELIEVER GAINS AND USES MONEY WISELY AND FOR GODLY PURPOSES (MONEY GIVES POWER) James 5:1-6

- A. The Wrong Way of Obtaining Wealth James 5:4, 6a
 - 1. Holding back wages 5:4
 - 2. Controlling the courts 5:6a
- B. The Wrong Way to Use Wealth James 5:3-5
 - 1. Stored wealth 5:3
 - 2. Keep others from benefiting from it 5:4
 - 3. Lived in selfish luxury 5:5
- C. What Riches Will Do James 5:1-5
 - 1. Riches will vanish 5:2-3a
 - 2. Misused riches erode character 5:3
 - 3. Judgment is a certainty 5:3, 5
 - 4. The loss of a precious opportunity 5:3

XII. THE MATURE BELIEVER'S PATIENCE PRODUCES POWER

James 5:7-12

- A. The Farmer James 5:7-9
- B. The Prophets James 5:10
- C. Job James 5:11

XIII. THE MATURE BELIEVER IS PREPARED AND PRAYS, SO

LET US PRAY James 5:13-20

- A. Prayer for the Suffering James 5:13
- B. Prayer for the Sick James 5:14-16
 - 1. When a Person is sick (regardless of reason) 5:15b-16
 - 2. Personal sin is covered by oil, prayer of faith, and confessed 5:16
 - 3. Person is healed by 'the prayer of faith' 5:15
- C. Prayer for the Nation James 5:17-18
- D. Prayer for the Straying James 5:19-20
 - 1. The origin of this problem 5:19
 - 2. The Outcome 5:20
 - 3. The Mature Believer continues growing from glory to glory into the image of Jesus Christ his LORD.

**Be blessed by the study of James the guide to the ordinary Christian's daily life.
Garth & Tina Presidents and Founders of www.TCT.TV**