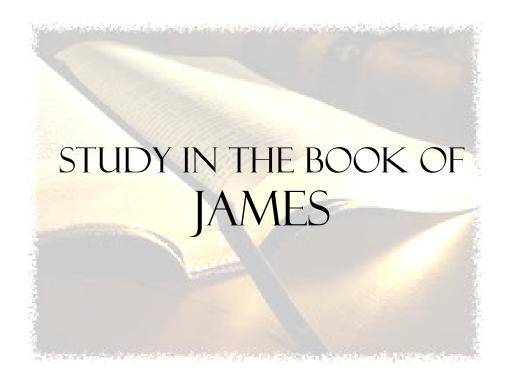


CHRISTIAN RESOURCES



By: Bishop Warwick Cole-Edwardes

JAMES Study 1

TURNING YOUR TRIALS INTO TRIUMPHS

(CHAPTER 1:1-12)

GLOSSARY

Be Mature - Wearsby Holy Living in a hostile world - S. Briscoe

Bible Speaks Today - The message of James A Motyer

James T Manton

INTRODUCTION

A very practical book (Christian living) teaches faith without works is dead.

1. Who was James?

a)	James son of Zebedee	
	James brother of John	Matt.4:17-22
	Sons of Thunder	
	First disciple to give his life to God	
	A.D. 44 Herod killed him.	
b)	James son of Alphaeus	Matt 10:3
c)	James father of Judas the Disciple	
d)	James brother of the Lord Jesus	Mark 6:3
	Initially he did not believe	John 7: 1-5
	Converted after the resurrection	
	Jesus appeared to him	1 Cor.15:7
	Given Authority	Gal. 2:9
	Chairman Council of Jerusalem	Acts 15
	Martyred in year A.D 62	

Letter to Jewish people outside of Palestine who had become Christians. Had one purpose bring them to maturity. Written in year 60 A.D.

TURNING YOUR TRIALS INTO TRIUMPHS.

1. <u>COUNT</u> - A joyful attitude (v.1-2)
<u>Consider it</u> (Evaluate) **Jn. 16:33** Acts 14:22

Whenever trials
Many kinds

Attitude pure joy Job 23:10, Rom 8:28, Heb 12:6

- 2. KNOW An understanding mind v.3
 - a) Faith is <u>always</u> tested. **Heb 12:6-8**
 - b) Testing is for you 1 Peter 1:7, 2 Cor. 4:17
 - c) Help you to develop perseverance **Rom. 5:3-4, Heb 10:36**

William Wearsby

"Satan can defeat the ignorant believer but he can't overcome the Christian who knows his Bible and understands the purposes of God"

3. LET - Surrendered will (v.4 + v. 9-11)

Perseverance must finish its work so that you may mature not lacking anything. Gods varied discipline is designed to produce a perfect completeness of character. Furthermore trials equal people out. Therefore, when trials come to a poor man, he is exalted; a rich man is humbled and broken.

- 4. ASK A believing heart (v.5-6)
 - a) What? If anyone lacks wisdom
 - b) How? We must not doubt **Heb.11:6**, Matt 21:22. Mark 11:24
 - c) <u>How does God answer</u>? He gives generously

CONCLUSION.

- 1. Person who perseveres is blessed
- 2. Trials make you blessed not miserable
- 3. Stand the test so that you receive the crown of life (Love of God keeps you going)

HOW TO HANDLE TEMPTATION

(CHAPTER 1:13-18)

INTRODUCTION

In general trials and testings are on the outside, where as temptations are in the inside. Trials are a test sent by God, temptation is sent by Satan, trials are for our good, temptation causes us to fall.

1. <u>CONSIDER GOD'S JUDGEMENT</u> (1:13-16)

This is a negative approach but important, look ahead and see where sin is going to lead.

- a) <u>Desire</u> (v.14)
 Each one is tempted by his own evil desire; never blame God, desire servant not master
- b) <u>Deception</u> (v.14)
 Drag away and enticed, baiting of a trap, fisherman (entice) both fisherman and hunter will use bait to catch prey, same with temptation there always is some bait which will appeal to your evil desires.
- c) <u>Disobedience</u> (v.15)
 You have moved away from the emotion (desires) and intellect (deception) now gets through to the will. James changes the picture from hunter to birth of baby.
- d) <u>Death</u> (v.15) Sin leads to death

2. <u>CONSIDER GOD'S GOODNESS</u> (v.17)

One of the devils tricks is to try to convince us that our Heavenly Father is not being good to us; goodness of God is a barrier against temptation.

- a) God gives only good gifts, everything good and perfect.
- b) The way God gives is good, what and how he gives are both good
- c) He gives constantly, present participial, keeps giving constantly; Joseph is best example (**Gen 39:4**)
- d) God does not change.

 The third way is by reminding ourselves who you are, a Christian with God's nature within; it is beneath your dignity to give into sin.

3. <u>CONSIDER GOD'S DIVINE NATURE WITHIN</u> (v.18)

- a) It is divine, "He chose" you.
- b) It is gracious (Jn.1:13)
- c) It is through God's Word (1Peter 1:23, Heb. 4:12)
- d) It is the finest birth possible. So that we may be a kind of first fruit God created, of all creatures God has in the universe Christians are highest and greatest.

STOP KIDDING YOURSELF (SELF DECEPTION)

Chapter 1:19-27

INTRODUCTION

In Matt. 7:22-23 the tragedy if self deception as taught by Jesus (Rev.3:17) spiritual maturity results from the proper relationship with God through His Word.

1. **RECEIVE THE WORD** (1:19-21)

- a) Swift to hear the Word (Matt.13:19. Rom 10:17)
- b) Slow to speak (**Prov. 10:19, 17:27**)
- c) Slow to wrath (Prov.14:29)
- d) A prepared heart
 - i) prepare your heart by getting rid of all moral filth
 - ii) you must humbly accept the Word of God.

PRACTICE THE WORD (1:22-25)

a) Self examination (v.22-25)

When we read the Word examine your life, e.g. like when you look in the mirror in the morning. The Bible must be your mirror.

- b) <u>Restoration.</u>
- c) Transformation

(2 Cor. 3:18) "and we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit".

3. SHARE THE WORD (v.26-27)

a) Speech (**v26**)

The tongue always reveals the heart of the heart is right the speech will be right (Matt 12:34-35).

- b) <u>Service</u> (**v.26-27**)
 - (1 John 3:11-18)
- c) Separation (v.27)

Keep yourself from being polluted by the world.

FAVOURITISM FORBIDDEN

Chapter 2:1-13

4. THE WORD OF GOD (2:8-11)

James now reaches back into the Old Testament from Leviticus 19:18, "love your neighbour as you love yourself" In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus told us that our neighbour is anyone who needs your help.

- a) <u>It rules all other laws.</u> (**Rom. 13:10**)
- b) Makes you a king. If you obey the laws it makes you a king.
- c) Treat others the way God treated me.

5. THE JUDGEMENT OF GOD (2:12-13)

- a) Our words. All our words are going to be judged(Matt.12:36,5:21-26)
- b) Our deeds. (Col.3:22-25)
- c) Our attitude.

FAVOURITISM FORBIDDEN

Chapter 2:1-13

1. THE DEITY OF CHRIST (2:1-4)

- a) Jesus didn't respect people, Jesus didn't look at outward appearance he always looked at the heart (Matt 22:16)
- b) Jesus was despised and rejected
- c) He himself is the very Glory of God

2. THE GLORY OF GOD (2:5-7)

- a) Ignores national differences (Acts 10:34, Rom.10:1-13)
- b) Ignores social differences (Eph.6:9, 1 Cor. 26-27)

FALSE FAITH

Chapter 2:14-26

INTRODUCTION

Faith is the key doctrine Ephesians 2:8-9 "we are saved by faith" in 2 Cor.5:7 "we walk by faith" and Heb 11:6 "without faith it is impossible to please God"

1. **DEAD FAITH** (v.14-17)

Even in the early church there were those who claimed to have saving faith but did not posses salvation (Matt. 7:21-27, 25:40)

- a) Works of repentance
- b) Works of piety
 - i) reading of Word (Jer.15:16)
 - ii) prayer
 - iii) fellowship
- c) Works of love

Visiting the sick and helping the poor

2. <u>DEMONIC FAITH</u> (v.18-19)

Here James shocks his complacent readers, the man with the dead faith was only touched by intellectual knowledge (Mark 3:11-12, 5:1-13, Luke 8:31)

DEAD - INTELLECTUAL

DEMONIC - **EMOTIONS**

DYNAMIC - WILL

3. **DYNAMIC FAITH** (v.20-26)

- a) <u>Described</u>
 - i) Based on the Word of God
 - ii) Involves the whole person
 Mind understands the truth
 heart understands the truth
 Will acts on the truth
- b) Illustrated
 - i) Abraham (**Gen.15:5-6**)
 - ii) Rahab (**Joshua 2+6**) hid the spies.

CONCLUSION

Chapter 2 emphasizes that the mature Christian practices the truth in every way Chapter 1 Patience in tribulation

THE WORLD'S SMALLEST BUT LARGEST TROUBLE MAKER

Chapter 3:1-12

INTRODUCTION

In Chapter 1 and 2 we have seen two characteristics of a Christian. In Chapter 1 Patient in tribulation, in Chapter 2 Practicing the truth, in Chapter 3 He has the power over his tongue

1. POWER TO DIRECT (v.1-4)

- a) <u>Bit</u> (**v.3**)
 - This is a small instrument, but a young horse can be directed by it.
- b) <u>Rudder</u>

The rudder again, like the bit is small, but it directs the ship (**Prov. 18:21 Psl. 141:3-4**)

2. POWER TO DESTROY (v.5-8)

- a) <u>Fire</u> heats up things
 - defiles
 - hurts
 - spreads
 - destroys
- b) Animal (**v.7**)

We can tame animals, we cannot tame the tongue

3. **POWER TO DELIGHT**

- a) <u>Fountain</u> (pours out)
- b) Tree (protects you from the sun in the heat of the day.
- c) WARNING

The tongue then has power to direct, destroy and delight, but it has to be under control, and the only way it can be under control is by the Word of God and by the Spirit.

WHERE TO GET WISDOM

Chapter 3:13-18

1. <u>CONTRAST IN ORIGIN</u> (v.15+17)

In life, you turn either to the world or the Lord for wisdom.

WORLD

- a) <u>Earthly</u> (1 Cor. 1:18, v.20, 2:14) Man's wisdom comes from reason (it's earthly)
- b) <u>Sensual</u> (1 Cor. 15:44)
- c) Devilish

LORD

- a) <u>Jesus Christ</u> (1 Col. 2:3)
- b) <u>Word of God</u> (**Deut. 4:4-6**)
- c) Prayer (2 Tim. 3:15)

2. <u>CONTRAST IN OPERATIONS</u> (v.13-14+17)

- a) Evidence of false wisdom
 - i) envy
 - ii) strife
 - iii) boasting
 - iv) deceit
- b) Evidence of true wisdom
 - i) meekness (power under control)
 - ii) purity (morally)
 - iii) <u>peace</u> (heart)
 - iv) gentleness
 - v) compliance (willing to listen)
 - vi) mercy
 - vii) good fruit
 - viii) decisiveness (no debate
 - ix) sincerity

3. <u>CONTRAST IN OUTCOMES</u> (v.16-18)

- a) Worldly wisdom always produces trouble
- b) <u>God's wisdom always produces blessing</u>

A FEW HOME TRUTHS

Chapter 4:1-12

1. **ABOUT WRANGLING** (v.1-3)

- a) A serious condition. There are fights and quarrelling
- b) <u>a poisoned spring</u>. At the bottom of all these fights and quarrels lay the evil desires of self pleasing, love of display, love of power, love of money.
- c) <u>A better way.</u> Ask God (Prayer is greatest way to sort out difficulties, but motive must be right).

2. ABOUT WORLDLINESS (v.4-5)

- a) <u>A terrible name.</u> Adulterous people. Spiritually they were married to God, but now they were going into the world, they loved other things more than God.
- b) <u>An awful position.</u> Friendship with the world, is hatred towards God (Matt 6:24)
- c) A remarkable statement. Spirit envy's intensely.

 TASKER. "V.4 teaches the incompatibility of friendship of the world with friendship of God. God is a jealous God, who will allow no rivals, it is His Spirit that has been given to the Christian and He cannot view with anything but jealousy, the harbouring by the Christian of any rival spirit, such as the spirit of the world".

3. **ABOUT CONCEIT** (v.6-10)

- a) There is little to justify it. There is very little to justify pride v.7 resist the devil, v.8 come near to God, v.9 change your laughter into mourning.
- b) There is much to commend. Humility
 - i) God will give you grace. (v.6)
 - ii) The devil will flee from you (v/7)
 - iii) God will come near to you if you are humble. (v.8)
 - iv) God will lift you up. (v.10)

4. **ABOUT CRITICISM.** (v.10-12)

- a) Because you are brothers
- b) Because you are judging the Law itself
- c) Because God alone is the lawgiver and judge.
- d) Who are you to criticize others?

SUMMARY

Avoid fighting and arguing Danger of becoming worldly and proud Danger of criticizing

PLAN AHEAD

Chapter 4:13-17

1. **IGNORING GOD'S WILL (v.13-14,16)**

- a) They forget the complexity of life (v.13)
- b) They forget the uncertainty of life (v.14)
- c) They forget the brevity of life (**v.14**)
- d) They forget the frailty of life (v.16)

2. <u>DISOBEYING GOD'S WILL</u> (v.17)

- a) Chastened disciple
- b) <u>Losing</u> lose your reward (1 Cor.9:24-27)

3. **OBEYING GOD'S WILL** (v.15)

- a) We should **know** his will (**Acts 22:14**)
- b) We should **understand** His will (**Eph.5:17**)
- c) We should $\overline{\text{prove His will (Rom.12:2)}}$
- d) We should **do** God's will from the heart (**Eph 6:2**)

GOD'S WILL

- a) Bible
- b) Prayer
- c) Circumstances
- d) Advice from mature believers
- e) Peace

MONEY TALKS

(Chapter 5:1-6)

INTRODUCTION

We live in a society today that worships money and here is a passage that is now going to put materialism into a biblical context.

1. THE WAY THEY GET THEIR WEALTH (v.4-8)

The Bible never discourages the acquiring of wealth, in fact, the law of Moses lays down special laws for acquiring wealth, even Jesus in his parables indicated respect for personal property and private gain, but he does condemn the acquiring of wealth by illegal means. So Amos, Isaiah and Jeremiah thundered against the upper classes. Now James gives two demonstrations of how the wealthy got their money.

- a) Holding back wages
 In the books of Moses they all say the same, you must pay proper wager
 (Deut. 24:14-15, Lev.19:13, Jer.22:13)
- b) <u>Controlling the courts.</u> (Exodus **18:21**, Lev.19:15, Deut.19:16-21, Micah 3:11, Amos 5:12-15)

2. THE WAY THE RICH USED THEIR WEALTH (v.3-5

- a) They stored it up. (v3) (2Cor.12:14, 1 Tim.5:6, Matt.25:27)
 There is nothing wrong with saving and insurance, storing up of money is greed.
- b) They kept others from benefiting from it (v.4)
- c) They lived in luxury (v.5) (Luke 12:15)

3. WHAT THEIR RICHES WILL DO.(v.1-4)

- a) Will vanish (v.2-3) (1 Tim 6:17, Luke 12:20)
- b) <u>Erode character (v.3) (1 Tim.6:10, Psl. 62:10)</u> Money changes character
- c) Judgement is a certainty (v.3-5)
- d) The loss of a precious opportunity (v. 3) (Eph. 5:16)

james Study 11

THE POWER OF PATIENCE

(Chapter 5:7-12)

INTRODUCTION

Six times in these verses that thought of patience and endurance is mentioned, this is to characterize the Lord's people until he comes.

1. THE FARMER REAPING HIS HARVEST (v.7)

- a) The expenditure on the field (1Cor 3:9, 1 Peter 1:18-19)
- b) The <u>experience</u> of the field
- c) The <u>expectation</u> from the field
 The expectation to yield its valuable crop.

2. THE JUDGE ANNOUNCING HIS DECISION (v.8-9)

- a) Their lives were in danger of getting distraught.
- b) Their language was a mirror of their mind's disturbance.
- c) Their lessons were set before.
- d) Their Lord was coming to judge them.

3. THE LORD'S DISCLOSING HIS PURPOSE (v.10-11)

- a) His <u>experience</u> (Summary of Job. Chapter 1-3 his distress
 Chapter 4-31 his defence
 Chapter 31-42 his deliverance
- b) His ignorance
- c) His <u>recompense</u>

At the end of all his distress the Lord rewards Job with more than he had before

CONCLUSION

Above all don't swear (Mat 5:33-37), James isn't condemning the taking of a solemn oath as Abraham did (Heb.6:13), Jesus (Matt. 26:63-65), Paul (Rom.1:9) But he is condemning the flippant use of God's name or using a sacred object to guarantee the truth of what you just said.

LET US PRAY

(Chapter 5:13-20)

1. PRAYER FOR THE SUFFERING (v.13)

The word for trouble here means a different circumstance, when we are in trouble, don't grumble or become depressed. "We should pray" (2 Cor. 12:7-10, Acts 16:25) and we should sing songs of praise (Eph. 5:19)

2. PRAYER FOR THE SICK (v.14-16)

- a) <u>Initiative by the sick</u>
 They should call for the help of the elders.
- b) Visit by the elders

 By this way so much sensationalism and disillusionment would be
- avoided.

 c) Application for oil
- Taken as a symbol of the Holy Spirit and a means of medicine.
- d) <u>Prayer</u> Elders came and prayed for God's healing (**1John 5:14-15**)
- e) <u>Bodily healing</u>
 There are times when God does not heal.
- f) <u>Forgiveness</u>

3. PRAYER FOR THE NATION (v.17-18)

Elijah prayed earnestly (1 King 17-18)

4. PRAYER FOR THE STRAYING (v.19:20)

- a) Origin
 - Wandered from the truth
- b) Outcome

We must bring him back and help him to turn away from his sin.