

The Letter Of James

1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes whom are scattered abroad, Greeting.

1:2 My brothers, count it all joy when you fall into various trials;

1:3 Knowing that the testing of your faith develops patience.

1:4 But let patience have her mature work, that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all freely, without reproach; and it will be given to him.

1:6 But let him ask in faith, with no wavering. For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

1:7 For let not that man think that he will receive anything from the Lord.

1:8 A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.

1:9 Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:

1:10 But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he will pass away.

1:11 For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withers the grass, and the flower of it falls, and the grace of the fashion of it perishes: so also will the rich man fade away in his ways.

1:12 Blessed is the man that endures temptation: for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those that love Him.

1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted by God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempts He anyone:

1:14 But everyone is tempted, when he is taken away by his own lust, and enticed.

1:15 Then, when lust has conceived, it brings out sin: and sin, when it is finished, brings out death.

1:16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.

1:17 Every good and complete gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variation or shadow of turning.

1:18 By His own will He brought us out by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of His creation.

1:19 Therefore, my beloved brothers, let everyone be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger:

1:20 For the anger of man works not the righteousness of God.

1:21 Therefore put aside all filthiness and abundance of malice, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

1:23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror:

1:24 For he sees himself, and goes his way, and immediately forgets what manner of man he was.

1:25 But whoever looks into the mature law of freedom, and continues in it, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man will be blessed in his deed.

1:26 If anyone among you seems to be religious and bridles not his tongue, but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is useless.

1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

2:1 My brothers, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with favoritism.

2:2 For if there come to your assembly a man with a gold ring, in fine apparel, and there come in also a poor man in dirty clothing;

2:3 Then you have respect for him that wears the rich clothing, and say to him, Sit here in a good place; but say to the poor, Stand you there, or sit here under my footstool:

2:4 Are you not showing favoritism among yourselves, and have become judges with evil thoughts?

2:5 Listen, my beloved brothers, Has not God chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He has promised to them that love Him?

2:6 But you have looked down on the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and drag you before the courts?

2:7 Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by who you are called?

2:8 If you fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, You will love your neighbor as yourself, you do well:

2:9 But if you show favoritism, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

2:10 For whoever will keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one thing, he is guilty of all.

2:11 For He that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not murder. Now if you don't commit adultery, yet if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

2:12 So speak, and so do, as they that are about to be judged by the law of freedom.

2:13 For He will have judgment without mercy, that has showed no mercy; and mercy triumphs over judgment!

2:14 What does it profit, my brothers, though a man say he has faith, and have not works? Can such faith save him?

2:15 If a brother or sister is without clothing, and lacks daily food,

2:16 And one of you say to them, Depart in peace, be warmed and filled; nonetheless you give them not those things which are necessary to the body; What does it profit?

2:17 Even so faith, if it has not works, is dead, being alone.

2:18 Yes, a man may say, You have faith, and I have works: show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

2:19 You believe that there is one God; You do well: The demons also believe, and tremble!

2:20 But do you want to know, Oh foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

2:22 See how faith worked with his deeds, and by works was faith made mature?

2:23 So the Scripture was fulfilled which said, Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness: And he was called the Friend of God.

2:24 You see then that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

2:25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

3:1 My brothers, let not many become teachers, knowing that we will receive a stricter judgment.

3:2 For we all stumble in many things. If any man stumble not in word, the same is a mature man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

3:3 Behold, we put bits in horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn around their whole body.

3:4 Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned around with a very small rudder, wherever the pilot wants.

3:5 Even so the tongue is a little member, yet boasts great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindles!

3:6 For the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

3:7 For every kind of beast, and bird, and serpent, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and has been tamed of mankind:

3:8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

3:9 With it we bless God, even the Father; and with it curse we men, whom are made according to the likeness of God.

3:10 Out of the same mouth proceeds blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things should not be.

3:11 Does a fountain send out at the same place sweet water and bitter?

3:12 Can the fig tree, my brothers, bear olive berries? Either a vine, figs? So can no fountain provide both salt water and fresh.

3:13 Whom is a wise man and understanding among you? Let him display by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.

3:14 But if you have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

3:15 This wisdom descends not from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.

3:16 For where envying and strife exist, there is confusion and every evil work.

3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, without favoritism,, full of mercy and good fruits, without favoritism, and without hypocrisy.

3:18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by them that make peace.

4:1 From where come wars and fighting among you? Come they not from this, even of your lusts that war in your members?

4:2 You lust, and have not: you murder, and desire to have, and cannot get: you fight and war, yet you have not, because you ask not.

4:3 You ask, and receive not, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

4:4 You adulterers and adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

4:5 Do you think that the Scripture says in vain, The Spirit that dwells in us yearns jealously?

4:6 But He gives more grace! Therefore He says, God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

4:7 Therefore submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

4:8 Draw close to God, and He will draw close to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

4:9 Lament, and mourn, and weep: Let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.

4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up!

4:11 Speak not evil of one another, brothers. He that speaks evil of his brother, and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law, and judges the law: But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge.

4:12 There is one lawgiver, whom is able to save and to destroy: Whom are you that judges another?

4:13 Come now, you who say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and make a profit:

4:14 But you know not what will be on the next day. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appears for a little time, and then vanishes away.

4:15 For you ought to say, If the Lord will, we will live, and do this, or that.

4:16 But now you rejoice in your boastings: All such rejoicing is evil.

4:17 Therefore to him that knows to do good, and does it not, to him it is sin.

5:1 Come now, you rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that will come on you.

5:2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth eaten.

5:3 Your gold and silver has corroded; and the rust of them will be a witness against you, and will eat your flesh as it were fire.

You have heaped treasure together during the last days.

5:4 Behold, the pay of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cries: and the cries of those who have reaped have entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

5:5 You have lived in luxury on the land, and been pleased; you have fattened your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.

5:6 You have condemned and killed the just; and he does not resist you.

5:7 Therefore be patient, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the land, and has long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

5:8 Be patient also; establish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draws close.

5:9 Grumble not against one another, brothers, unless you be condemned: Behold, the judge is standing at the door!

5:10 My brothers examine the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering, and of patience.

5:11 Behold, we count them happy whom endure. You have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end intended by the Lord; that the Lord is very compassionate, and rich in mercy.

5:12 But above all things, my brothers, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yes be yes; and your no, no; unless you fall into condemnation.

5:13 Are any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Are any happy? Let him sing psalms.

5:14 Are any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the assembly; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

5:15 For the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven.

5:16 Confess your faults to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The fervent prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective!

5:17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the land for three and a half years!

5:18 Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the land brought forth her fruit.

5:19 Brethren, if any of you wanders from the truth, and one turns him back;

5:20 Let him know, that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.