

James

1 James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes of the dispersion: greeting!

²My brothers, consider it all joy when you fall into various temptations, ³knowing that the trying of your faith produces endurance; ⁴and let endurance have its complete work, that you may be complete and entire, lacking in nothing.

⁵If anyone among you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives generously to all, and does not rebuke, and it will be given to him. ⁶But let him ask in faith, doubting nothing, for one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, tossed about and wind-blown. ⁷Let not that man think that he will receive anything from the Lord. ⁸An undecided man is unstable in all his ways.

⁹Let the lowly brother rejoice in his exaltation, ¹⁰but the rich in his lowliness, because he will pass away as the flower of the grass. ¹¹The sun arises with scorching heat, and withers the grass, and its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. In this manner the rich man will fade away in his ways.

¹²Blessed is the man who endures temptation, because when he has been tried, he will receive the crown of life, which he has promised to the ones who love him. ¹³Let no one who is tempted say, "I am tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted by evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴Each one is tempted when he is lured by his own desires, and enticed. ¹⁵When desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is full-grown, it bears death. ¹⁶Be not deceived, my beloved brothers.

¹⁷Every good and complete gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change, and with whom there is no shadow of turning. ¹⁸According to his plan, he has brought us into being through the message of truth, that we might be a certain firstfruits of his creatures. ¹⁹You know this, my beloved brothers.

Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, ²⁰for human anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore, having put away all impurity and excess of evil, humbly receive the implanted message, which is able to save your souls. ²²But be doers of the message, not hearers only, misleading yourselves; ²³because if anyone is a hearer of the message, and not a doer, he is like a man looking at himself in a mirror: ²⁴he looks at himself, leaves, and right away forgets how he looked. ²⁵But he who looks into the complete law of liberty, and continues in it, being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of work, this one will be blessed in his doing.

²⁶If anyone considers himself to be religious, but does not control his tongue (deceiving his heart), his religion is worthless. ²⁷Pure and unstained religion before God, even the Father, is this: to care for the needs of orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

2 My brothers, in showing partiality, you do not hold the faith of our glorious Lord, Jesus Christ. ²If a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothes enters your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothes also enters, ³and you care about the one wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a place of honor," but say to the poor man, "You stand there, or sit under my footstool," ⁴are you not discriminating among yourselves, and have you not become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵Listen, my beloved brothers: has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Do not the rich oppress you, and drag you to court? ⁷Do they not slander the honorable name by which you are called?

⁸If you keep the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well. ⁹But if you show partiality, you are committing sin, and are condemned by the law as transgressors; ¹⁰for he who keeps the whole law, but stumbles in one part, has sinned

against all of it. ¹¹He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²Speak and act in such a manner as those who are going to be judged by a law of liberty; ¹³for judgment is merciless to the one who does not show mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith, but he does not have works? Can faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister needs clothes, or lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give to them the things necessary for the body, what good is it? ¹⁷In this same way, unless faith has works, it is dead by itself. ¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by works."

¹⁹Do you believe that there is one God? You do well. The demons also believe, and tremble with fear. ²⁰Are you ready to recognize, foolish man, that faith without works is worthless? ²¹Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²²You see that faith cooperated with his works, and his faith was made complete by works. ²³The scripture was fulfilled which said, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness," and he was called God's friend. ²⁴You see that a man is justified by works, and not merely by faith.

²⁵Likewise also, was not Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the spies, and sent them out by a different road? ²⁶As the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

3 Do not many of you become teachers, my brothers, knowing we will be judged more strictly, ²for in many things we all stumble. If anyone does not stumble with his tongue, he is full-grown, and can bridle his whole body. ³Behold! We put bits in horses' mouths, that they may obey us, and we turn about their whole body. ⁴Behold also the great

ships, though driven by strong winds, are turned about by the smallest rudder, where the pilot wishes. ⁵In the same way, the tongue also is a little member, and boasts great things. Behold! A very small fire kindles a large forest, ⁶and the tongue is a fire. Among our members the tongue is a world of wrongdoing, which stains the whole body and inflames the course of nature, and is inflamed by hell.

⁷All nature (beasts, birds, reptiles, and fish) is subdued and has been subdued by mankind; ⁸but no one among men can subdue the tongue, because it is an uncontrollable evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹We praise the Lord and Father with it, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰Blessing and cursing come out of the same mouth.

My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a fountain give sweet and bitter water from the same opening? ¹²My brothers, can a fig tree produce olives, or a vine figs? Neither can saltwater yield sweet.

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by honorable behavior his works in gentleness of wisdom ¹⁴But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not boast, and do not lie against the truth. ¹⁵This wisdom is not coming down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, diabolical. ¹⁶Where jealousy and selfish ambition are, there are disorder and every evil deed.

¹⁷But the wisdom which is from above is indeed first pure, then peaceful, considerate, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸The fruit of righteousness is peaceably sown by those who make peace.

4 What is the source of the conflicts and quarrels among you? Do they not come from your pleasures which war in your members? ²You desire, but you do not have. You kill and you covet, but you do not obtain. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask, and you do not receive, because you ask with an evil purpose, that you may spend on your pleasures. ⁴Adulterers and adulteresses, do

you not know that the friendship of the world is hatred of God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself God's enemy.

⁵Do you think that the scripture speaks emptily? Does the Spirit living in us lust to envy? ⁶Instead, he gives greater grace, and said, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the lowly." ⁷Be submissive therefore to God! Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Sinners, cleanse your hands. Double-minded, purify your hearts. ⁹Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy into gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

¹¹Do not speak against one another, brothers. He who speaks against his brother, or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law. If you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge. ¹²There is one lawgiver and judge, the One able to save and destroy. Who are you to judge your neighbor?

¹³Come now, you who are saying, "Today or tomorrow we will go to a certain city, and spend a year there; we will trade and make a profit." ¹⁴You do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? You are a vapor which briefly appears, and then vanishes.

¹⁵Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live, and do this or that." ¹⁶But now you are boasting in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷Therefore, knowing good, and not doing it, is sin.

5 Come now, you who are rich: weep and wail because of the calamities which are coming upon you. ²Your riches are molded, and your clothes are moth-eaten; ³your gold and silver are tarnished, and their tarnish will be a testimony against you, eating your flesh as fire.

You have laid up treasures for the last days. ⁴Behold! The wages of the workers who have mowed your fields, which have been kept back by you, cry out; and the cries of the harvesters have entered into the ears of

the Lord of armies ⁵You have indulged yourselves on the earth, and have lived in luxury; you have pampered yourselves with gourmet foods; ⁶you have wronged and murdered the righteous, who do not resist you.

⁷Therefore, brothers, have patience until the coming of the Lord. Behold! The farmer expects the earth's precious fruit, waiting patiently for it, until he receives the early and late rains. ⁸You, too, wait patiently, and strengthen your hearts, because the Lord's coming is near.

⁹Do not complain against one another, so that you will not be condemned. Behold! The judge stands before the doors. ¹⁰My brothers, take the prophets (who have spoken in the Lord's name) as an example of suffering and of endurance. ¹¹Behold! We consider happy those who endured. You have heard of Job's patient endurance, and you have seen that in the outcome, the Lord is deeply sympathetic and merciful.

¹²Above all things, my brothers, do not swear, neither by heaven, nor by the earth, nor by any other oath; but let your "yes" be yes, and your "no" no, that you do not fall under condemnation.

¹³Is any among you suffering evil treatment? Let him pray. Is any happy? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴Is any sick? Let him invite the congregation's elders, and let them pray over him, having anointed him with oil in the Lord's name. ¹⁵The prayer of faith will cure the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

¹⁶Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous has powerful results. ¹⁷Elijah was a man whose nature was like ours, and he prayed that it would not rain, and it did not for three and a half years; ¹⁸and he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

¹⁹My brothers, if any one among you is led astray from the truth, and someone turns him back, ²⁰let him know, that he who turns a sinner back from the error of his way will save a soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.