



Real *Life* Christianity

Demonstrating Real Faith in a Real World

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Student Edition

A 13-Week Study in the
Book of James

Sunday School Lessons
by Dr. Marty O. Wynn

13 Bible Lessons
from the
Book of James

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Lesson #1*An Introduction to the Study of the Book of James*

Theme “Christianity in _____.”

James has been called the most practical book in the Word of God. It takes the principles of God’s Word and plants them fresh into our everyday lives.

One writer referred to James as, “The _____ of the New Testament.”¹

John Phillips states, “The letter of James calls us from a phony piety to a _____ faith.”²

What James presents is the call for a Christianity that is evidenced by works. Some people have attempted to use this book as proof that it is faith plus works that save. However, the Scriptures will never contradict themselves. The Word of God very clearly teaches that it is grace alone that saves (cf. Eph. 2:8-9).

John Calvin that stated, “Faith alone saves, but the faith that saves is not _____!”

It could be said that James is about _____ faith!

Background

The early church had just been formed (Acts 2), and now they were under heavy _____ (Acts 8:1; cf. I Pet. 1:6-7). The first verse of the Book of James describes the people to whom this letter is written as “*the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad.*”

Persecution was heavy against these early church believers. The book of Acts refers to them as people of “*that _____*” (Acts 19:9, 23; 24:22), or those of “*this way*” (Acts 9:2; 22:4).

Paul Rader stated, “*These early Christians lived on the threshold of _____, within a heartbeat of home, no possessions to hold them back.*” How true!

Many of these Christians were probably wondering if following Jesus was worth it. After all, Jesus was not visibly present anymore, and to claim to be His follower meant certain persecution. Therefore, this letter is written to tell them to keep their faith and “hang in there,” because the Judge is coming (5:9)! When the Judge comes, all will be made right!

¹ Ron M. Phillips, The Royal Law of Royal Living (Huntsville, AL: Evangel Publications, 1986), 9.

² *ibid*, p.9.

Date

It is generally agreed that James is probably one of the earliest New Testament books written.

The date of its writing is around A.D. _____.

Writer

Most conservative scholars agree that the James of this book is the _____
-brother of Jesus. There is a James who was the half-brother of Jesus (cf. Matt. 13:55; Mk. 6:3)
and the brother of Jude, who wrote the book which bears his name.

Prior to the resurrection of Jesus, James was not a _____ (Jn. 7:5). He,
along with the other siblings of Jesus, thought He might be “*beside Himself*” (i.e., insane; see
Mk. 3:21).

This is the same James who became the senior _____ of the church at
Jerusalem (cf. Acts 12:17; 21:18). It is this same James who is the human instrument the Holy
Spirit used to pen the Book of James.

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Lesson #2
Responding to Trials (Part #1)
 James 1:1-12

The early church was having a difficult time understanding why they were having such trials after they gave their lives to Christ. There are many Christians today who never accomplish anything for Christ because they become discouraged from improper response to trials, troubles and testing. Such an improper attitude is an example of *reacting, rather than responding*.

I. The _____ of Trials (v.2).

Definition: The word “*temptations*,” as used here, does not mean a tempting to sin. It is from the word, πειρασμός (pi-ras-mos), and means “a testing by fire

Two Uses of the Word the Root Word — <i>Peirasmos</i> (πειρασμός)		
To Test	<i>Meaning</i>	
God	<i>The Source</i>	
To Perfect Us	<i>Purpose</i>	

A. They are _____.

1. Trials _____ come.
2. Trials will come to _____.

All Christians will _____ at some time (cf. II Tim. 3:12; I Pet. 2:21; Heb. 12:8).

B. They are _____.

1. Different in their _____.
2. Different in their _____.

II. The _____ of Trials (vv. 3-4).

A. Molds us in _____ in Christ.

1. Problems produce _____ (v.3, “*the trying of your faith worketh patience*”).
2. Patience produces _____ (v.4, “*...that you may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing*”).

B. Molds us into the _____ of Christ.

1. To _____ like Christ.

2. To _____ like Christ.

(conclusion of Part #1)

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