

**James: Evidence of Faith**  
**04-22-07**

**James 1:22**

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

.... **Two days until spring** officially begins. **Rose bush** without roses. What happen?

- Intangible and **invisible faith** of Hebrews **evidenced by** tangible and **visible fruit**.

- **Saving faith displayed** in **holy thoughts, words,** and deeds.

**James written around 45-49 AD, oldest New Testament book, alludes to 21 Old Testament books.... written to Jewish Christians associated with Jerusalem church that scattered when Stephen was martyred.**

- **James was Jesus' half-brother, opposed Jesus with 3 other brothers** (Joseph, Simon, Judas), **convert by resurrection evidence, testified to Jesus' deity.** Mark 6:3, John 7:5, Acts 1:14, Galatians 1:19
  - **Tradition: 62 AD** religious leaders **pushed James off 100-foot roof of Temple** (place Satan took Jesus) for **refusing to blaspheme Jesus,** but **fall didn't kill him.**
    - **Prayed for murderers** as finished job by **stoning him.**

Called "**Proverbs of New Testament**" .... **promotes action more than preach theology.**

- Sets forth **what intangible and invisible faith does in active, visible way.**
  - **59 of 108 verses imperatives.... "What to do" commands.** See outline at the end.

Emphasis **causes misunderstanding: too law and works-oriented, contrary to Gospel.**

- **Martin Luther: originally epistle of straw** but soon **changed mind.**
  - Realized **complementary not contradictory** to Gospel of **grace.**

**Good works do not cause salvation but are the result of it.** James 1:18, 2:17, 19, 26, Ephesians 2:8-10

- Faith **not just mental assent or agree with doctrine.** You **live the gospel.**
  - **Faith alone saves** but **faith that saves is never alone.**
    - **Genuine saving faith manifested** in thoughts, **deeds,** words.

**Genuine faith displayed in perseverance in trials and temptations.** James 1:2-4, 12-15, 5:7

- **Trial itself not pure joy** but **what it works out brings joy.**
  - **Without trials Christian weak, incomplete Christians: Butterflies, chicks.**

Saving **faith revealed in actions.** James 1:21-22, 27, 2:1a, 3:13, 4:4, 7, 10

- **Obedience natural FRUIT** of God's favor **not ROOT** of **God's favor.**

- Faith **not just “talk”** but **“walk”**: resist **temptation, not prejudice, worldly or wicked**, kind, **patient**, prayerful, **visits** orphans and widows.
  - **Gospel empowers** victory and **comforts** when **fail** or sin, because **favor does not depend** on my **performance** but **Jesus’s performance** for me.

**True faith influences speech.** James 1:26, 3:6a, 8-10, 18, 4:11, 5:9, 13-14, Matthew 12:34

- **Speech reveals hearts treasure** is **either Jesus Christ or self**.
  - **Spread peace** or strife, **blessings**, or curses, **build up** or burn down.
    - Tongue **powerful** to **destroy** but **more powerful** when **use** way **God wants**: pray, **worship**, build up, **encourage**, bless.
- **Life long**, difficult **struggle** to **bridle tongue** but tongues **must submit** to **Holy Spirit’s control** and be **guided** by **His wisdom**. James 1:5, 3:17, Psalms 39:1
  - **Wisdom** directs **what, if, and how** (humbly in love) you **say** something.

James **not a “self-help”** manual but **picture** of **Jesus** and what **we** can **become** if **abide in Jesus**.

- It’s **Gospel in action, impact of God’s grace on lives**. Titus 2:11-13, Matthew 5:16
  - **Internal saving** faith **displayed externally** in **holy** thought, **words**, deeds **brings great glory** to our **Lord**.

### Outline of James

- 1:1-18 THE TESTING OF FAITH
  - 1:1-12 Purpose of Testing
  - 1:13-18 Source of Temptation
- 1:19-5:6 OPERATION OF GENUINE FAITH
  - 1:19-27 Obedience
  - 2:1-13 Not Prejudiced
  - 2:14-26 Demonstrated by Good Works
  - 3:1-12 Controls the Tongue
  - 3:13-18 Demonstrates Wisdom
  - 4:1-5 Not Worldly Minded
  - 4:6-12 Demonstrates Humility
  - 4:13-5:6 Relies on God
- 5:7-20 GENUINE FAITH HOPES, CARES, TRIUMPHS
  - 5:7-12 Genuine Faith Endures Trials
  - 5:13-18 Genuine Faith Prays Effectively
  - 5:19-20 Genuine Faith Confronts Sin