


# THE BOOK OF JAMES

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# INTRODUCTION

The book of James is probably the first New Testament letter that was written. James was the half-brother of Jesus Christ, and he was the leader of the first Church of Jerusalem. (Acts 12:17) James was also the person who wrote the letter to the Gentile Christians to tell them that believers should live by faith in Christ, and not according to the Law. (Acts 15:13-29)

We know that James was a man of prayer which we also can see in his letter. (1:5-8, 5:14-18) It was said that his knees were calloused from praying so much on his knees that they called him "camel knees". We see through the whole Bible that if God used somebody powerfully it always was a man of prayer.

According to Josephus, a Christian historian of the second century, we know the end of James' earthly life. Shortly before Jerusalem was destroyed James was killed because of his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The high priest in that time, around A.D. 62, commanded James "the brother" of Jesus who was called Christ to proclaim from one of the galleries of the Temple that Jesus was not the Messiah. But instead, James cried out that Jesus is the Son of God and Judge of the World. Then his enraged enemies hurled him to the ground and stoned him till somebody ended his sufferings with a club, while he was on his knees praying, "Father, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing."

The Book of James is practical, and it encourages us to have practical faith. After the Book of Romans and the Book of Hebrews talk about being saved by faith alone, the book of James tells us that when we have faith, we also should have works. Otherwise, our faith is death! And of course, if God is in our hearts there will be fruit and works because it is Him who is working in and through us.

## **Phil. 2:13**

for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Let's study the book of James!

# THE BOOK OF JAMES CHAPTER 1

“ James 1:1 James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.

James, the half-brother of Jesus Christ, wrote this letter. Although James was the leader of the church in Jerusalem, he recognized his position as a bondservant of the Lord Jesus Christ. He wrote this epistle to the Jewish Christians who were spread throughout this world after they were persecuted.

“ James 1: 2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

We know that the first Church had many persecutions, and we see that James encouraged the believers not to give up but to consider it pure joy. All things work out for good for those who love Him! Difficult situations will test and strengthen your faith because when you keep your faith you will see God's light breaking through in your difficult situations. It also will give you endurance to continue to trust in the Lord and endurance will make you a complete and mature Christian.

“ James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

James, the man of prayer, tells us how we should ask for wisdom. Wisdom is a gift and is given by God to those who ask Him. We should do that in complete faith trusting in God. (Ask and He will do it!) We should not doubt God's Word because God cannot lie! God can give a way out in every trial. Ask Him!

“ James 1:6-8 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

The importance of faith! When we ask God for anything we must come before Him in faith. We insult God when we come before Him with doubts, and we must repent from that sin.

## Heb 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Without faith, we can't please God and He will not answer our prayers. Without faith, we are double-minded and unstable in all our ways.

“ James 1:9-11 Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, 10 but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. 11 For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.

The poor brother should glory that God exalted him and made him part of His royal family. The rich brother should be thankful that God humbled him and could enter the Kingdom of God. We know poor or rich, God really can give satisfaction in life. Both poor and rich have trials and temptations, don't think that the rich one is better off. As the grass withers all his possessions will fade away. Only what is done for Jesus Christ has eternal value!

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

But there is a reward for those who persevere under trial, "The Crown of Life". This crown is for those who love Him. Those who persevere and endure are the ones who truly love Jesus Christ. Love never fails! We are blessed when we persevere under trial because we will experience how God works in our lives through His Holy Spirit.

“ James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

God can allow trials and tests in our lives, but He will never give us temptation. It is the devil when we are weak tries to give us temptation so that we don't put our trust in God. See also Adam and Eve, God tested them, but it was the devil who gave the temptation.

### **Deut. 8:2-3**

And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. 3 So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

“ James 1:14-15 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

It is our fault when we fall into temptation. It comes from our fleshy desire. When we have the desire to sin then this "seed" will give birth and we will sin. Sin will bring forth death, dead relationships, dead businesses, and dead unfruitful lives. Therefore, we

“ James 1:16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Every good gift and every perfect gift come from above. Remember that it is our Father who gives good things to those who ask Him.

**Matt. 7:11**

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

We should not be deceived and even think that it is God who is tempting us.

“ James 1:18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures.

God planned to create people and after the fall of man, we need to be restored and born again. It is through the Mighty Word of God that we can be born again!

**1 Pet 1:23**

Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.

Through accepting His Word, Jesus Christ is the Word, we are born again and now we are bearing fruit for the Kingdom of God.

James 1:19-20 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; 20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

\* We should be quick to hear! We must listen carefully and then we must be slow to speak. \*When we speak too fast, we make mistakes and misjudgments.

\*We must be slow to anger because the wrath belongs to God. (Rom. 12:19) Only the anger of God can bring righteousness. The anger of man brings chaos, darkness, and death.

“ James 1:21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

We must put aside our sins and bad habits so that the Word of God we accept can grow in our lives. Remember the story of "the Sower" in Matt. 13:18-23. God's Word can save, heal, and protect our souls.

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

Don't fool yourself! Believing in God and His Word also means action. If you only hear and don't do the Word, you will be like the foolish man in

**Matt. 7:24-27**

But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

“ James 1:23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

We need to read and hear the Word in a new way. When we look into the Word, we see the face of Jesus Christ. And when you look longer in it you will see yourself in Christ.

**2Cor. 3:18**

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Don't forget who you are, you are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus. Eph. 2:10 Know who you are and do the works of Christ, have faith in the Word, and combine that with action. See in the Word that you are a new creation and walk like it.

“ James 1:25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

The one who looks in the perfect law of liberty is blessed. The perfect law of liberty is Christ Himself; He became for us the law of the Spirit of life to set us free from the law of sin and death. (Rom. 8:2) The One who is doing the Word will see that the Word is true and alive and is even more blessed.

“ James 1:26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

The word religion is now a kind of cuss word in this world. There are many useless and worthless religions where people talk but not doing the walk. Let your yes be yes, and your no be no, anything is demonic. (Matt. 5:37) What we speak and think is very important because the words frame our world.

“ James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

Pure religion is action combined with holiness. Pure religion is faith in action. Pure religion is to be a blessing to this world, which is in chaos, darkness, and in desperate need of light. We should become doers of the Word and walk as Christ did.

# THE BOOK OF JAMES CHAPTER 2

“ James 2:1-4 My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. 2 For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, 3 and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," 4 have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

There were problems in the Church where the rich were better treated than the poor. We should treat everybody the same, in the Spirit we are one!

## 1 Cor 12:13

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

They treated the rich with evil thoughts to get more benefits and donations. We don't have to please people because God is the great provider.

“ James 2:5-7 Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? 7 Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?

James wants to say that we should not look to the outside of people. People can look very nice on the outside but can be very dirty on the inside. The poor depend on God more and must exercise their faith daily. We should not look down upon the poor, God takes pride in using the weak to shame the strong.

## 1 Cor 1:26-29

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.

“ James 2:8-11 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well; 9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. 11 For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.



James who was a very strict Jew is using the law here to point out sin. We should love one another, and partiality is not love and so it is sin. We should not love the rich people more than the poor. Some people say that we should not use the law but we can use the law if we use it lawfully.

### **1 Tim 1:8-11**

But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, 9 knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 10 for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, 11 according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.

“ James 2:12-13 So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. 13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Through the Holy Spirit, we can fulfill the requirements of the Law. The law requires us to have mercy and to love one another. That is the law of liberty what the Lord Jesus is working through the believer.

### **Rom. 8:3-4**

For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

“ James 2:14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?

Here is a practical example of what faith combined with works means. We should have practical faith, a faith that looks for the needs of others. Faith should be in action, it must be genuine otherwise we just have the religious talk and are a bad witness in this world.

“ James 2:17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Some people say that they have faith, but they don't have work, it is dead faith! A faith without works is a faith that doesn't work! If we want to be fruitful and have works done through the Holy Spirit, we need to deny ourselves.

### **John 12:24-25**

Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. 25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

“ James 2:18 But someone will 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.

Some people say that they have works but they have no faith. They do many good works and think that that can save them. But we can show our faith by our works when we walk in God's ways. We need the spirit of faith to do the works of God, for example: Love your enemy, or forgive your debtors. Your faith will shine in difficult situations.

“ James 2:19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe-- and tremble! 20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

James is sharp! You believe that there is a God, but how about your life? Do you walk by faith and bear fruit or do you just live for yourself? What do you believe? Faith without works is useless! That is how demonic religions work.

“ James 2:21-24 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

Abraham believed but also had action. Abraham combined his faith with obedience and was called a friend of God. For example, we can believe the gospel but if we don't share the gospel with others, do we actually believe? That is why the Bible says:

### **Rom 10:9**

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

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

Rahab believed that God should give Canaan into the hands of the Jews and so she acted according to that. She hid the two Jewish spies who went out to spy on the land. Rahab as a sinner believed in God, stood at God's side, and because of her faith, she became a member of the line of the Lord Jesus Christ. Matth. 1:5-6

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### **Josh 2:12-13**

Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the Lord, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token, 13 and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death."

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

A body without a spirit is dead and very smelly, it can bring bacteria to others and it needs to be buried. Without the Holy Spirit, we can't do the works or bear fruit. We only can do the works of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

# THE BOOK OF JAMES CHAPTER 3

“ James 3:1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

We should not all become teachers unless we are called. We should be called and prepared because we will be judged more strictly. We will be judged more strictly by God but also by men. People will try to find mistakes when we share, and the enemy will try to attack the ministry.

James 3:2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in words, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

The Bible says that if somebody doesn't stumble in what he says that he is a perfect man. If we want to be the mouth of God, then our tongues should be under control. When our mouth is perfect, we can control our bodies and our lives.

## James 1:26

If anyone among you thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

“ James 3:3 Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. 4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. 5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!

We can control a horse with a bit in its mouth. The bit pushes on the tongue so you can move the horse wherever you want. The same with a small rudder in a ship if controlled by a good pilot he can bring you through the greatest storms. So also, a small fire can burn away a whole forest! And so, the tongue although it is a small part of the body can change the course of your life, it even can change history.

“ James 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set 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.

The tongue is a fire and if not controlled it can destroy much. In the first place, it can destroy ourselves completely.

## Mark 7:20-23

And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. 21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

The tongue can also destroy others. Be careful what you say, with your words you can hurt, damage, and murder people. Words have power!

### **Matt 5:21-22**

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hellfire.

“ James 3:7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. 8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

Men can tame about every animal in this world. Humankind caught lions and tigers and put them in a zoo or safari park. Humans can let a Whale jump through a giant hoop. God gave dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, over all the cattle, over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. But the tongue is a very big problem that only the Holy Spirit can solve.

“ James 3:9-12 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus, no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

People became unnatural because of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. People became mixed and confused (Babylon) and were good and evil. With our tongue, we can praise the Lord and with the same tongue, we can curse man and put people down. Our tongues need to become under the control of the Holy Spirit. We need to eat from the Tree of Life to have a healthy tongue and speech.

### **2 Sam 23:2**

"The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue.

We need the Holy Spirit to protect our speech.

### **Ps 141:3**

Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.

If the Holy Spirit leads our tongues, we will speak with Holy fire from Heaven.

### **Jer 23:29**

"Is not My word like fire?" declares the LORD, "and like a hammer which shatters a rock?"

(See also Isaiah 6:1-8, when Isaiah confessed the sin of his tongue, and the Lord purified him and started to use him.)

“ James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.

We need to have faith in action, but we must show our actions done in wisdom and understanding. We as believers have the spirit of wisdom and understanding and can make a difference in this world. When people are wise and understanding you will see it in their families and daily lives.

### **Eph. 3:10**

to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,

“ James 3:14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

Here we see the wisdom from Hell, bitter jealousy, selfish ambition, and pride! We observe that this world is confused, self-seeking, and demonic.

We know that in many churches' demons do the same as in the world, and are working very hard to create disunity. There are so many disorders, divisions, and human thinking in the Church. We need the Lord Jesus Christ to build our Churches! Matt.16:18

“ James 3:17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. James 3:18 And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Here we see the wisdom of Heaven which is the opposite of the wisdom of Hell. The wisdom of heaven is peaceable and not chaotic. The wisdom of heaven is gentle and not rude. The wisdom of heaven is reasonable and not extreme. We as a Church should sow these kinds of seeds of wisdom into this world and it will bear fruits of peace for God and people.

# THE BOOK OF JAMES CHAPTER 4

“ James 4:1 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?

James says that there are quarrels and conflicts because of fleshy desires, selfishness, jealousy, and pride. These desires will wage war on your members.

## **Rom. 6:23**

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

“ James 4:2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

\*Fleshy Christians try to get things in a worldly way, but they still can't get it. So, they will murder, which means they will put people down through a competitive spirit.

\*Fleshy Christians try to lift themselves by putting other people down.

\*Fleshy Christians are envious and not thankful; they don't know that promotion and every blessing comes from the Lord.

\*Fleshy Christians don't have because fleshy Christians don't pray. They don't put their trust in God.

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

When fleshy Christians pray they will ask wrong because they don't live for the Kingdom of God, they only live for themselves. They will ask and they will not receive because they don't pray according to God's will.

“ James 4:4-5 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

God wants us to live for the Kingdom of God and that we help to advance the Kingdom of God with our lives, possessions, and time. If people live for themselves or this world, they are like people who commit adultery. We belong to God through Jesus Christ and He is a jealous God.

## **1 Cor 6:19-20**

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

“ James 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore, He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

God is against the proud, the proud are the ones who don't keep and obey God's Word. The proud ones are the ones who think that they are better than others. The humble are the ones who want to obey and keep God's Word, but they know that they know from themselves that they can't keep God's Word. That is why God will give grace to the humble so that the humble can be obedient to God's Word through the Spirit of Grace. The Bible teaches us that we can overcome our flesh through the Holy Spirit.

**Rom. 8:2**

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

**Rom. 8:13**

For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

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

If we humble ourselves and submit to God we will be able to resist the devil with God's power and grace. It was Jesus Christ who came to give us grace and truth and that is the Spirit of Grace and Truth. We must resist the devil and not just allow the devil to influence our lives. When we resist the devil with God's power, he will flee from us.

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

When we draw near to God, He will draw near to us. But when we draw near to God, and we don't find Him then it is because of our sin. We should have clean hands and a clean heart when we want to meet our God.

“ James 4:9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

When we have sin, we should repent and be sad about our sin. We should feel sorry that we have grieved the Holy Spirit. When we humble ourselves before the Lord, He will renew our strength. We should not only repent with our mouths but also with our hearts.

**Acts 3:19**

"Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;



“ James 4:11 Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a 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. 12 There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?

We should not judge one another.

**Matt. 7:1**

"Judge not, that you be not judged."

But we will let God's Word judge and examine everything with God's Word. When we have to restore somebody, we should do that in love and not in a judgmental spirit.

**Gal. 6:1**

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

“ James 4:13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." 16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

People can be so proud! So many people, even Christians, have great plans, their plans. They have great plans and a great imagination, but they forget their Creator and forget that they should live for Him. They only look for their profit and not for the profit of the Kingdom of God. Christians should humble themselves and let God control their lives.

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

When we know that we should live for God and don't do it we live in sin. When we know that we should pray but don't do it we sin. When we know that we should share the gospel and don't do it we sin.

# THE BOOK OF JAMES CHAPTER 5

“ James 5:1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! 2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days.

There must have been two kinds of rich people in the Church. Rich Christians who didn't live completely for God but lived for their benefit and rich people (non-Christians) who liked to show off their riches in the Church. Verse two is a prophecy about what happens with people's possessions if they collect treasures on earth.

“ James 5:4 Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out, and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. 5 You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned; you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.

People had become rich in a not honest God-honoring way. Rich people oppressed the poor workers and didn't pay their wages on time or didn't pay at all. The rich who should be thankful became very greedy people, that is idolatry in God's eyes, and He will judge that. The rich of this world today are evil as well and you will know their names.

“ James 5:7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. 8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Now James is talking to the brethren. We should be patient waiting on the Lord and His eternal reward. We have sown our lives, and possessions for the Kingdom of God and we will have a great harvest and great reward. 2Cor. 9:6-8 So have patience! Our treasures are in Heaven and our riches are prepared.

“ James 5:9 Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! 10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience.

We should not complain to each other but wait for our Judge. Like the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord, we should have patience. The prophets spoke God's Word but many times they didn't see the fulfillment in their lifetimes.

Another good example is in Ps. 73:1-3.

**Ps. 73:1-3**

Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart. 2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped. 3 For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

The psalmist saw the wicked prosper so much and he had difficulties with that. But he needed to have patience.

**Ps. 73:16-17**

When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me-- 17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end.

The Judge is standing right at the door. The believer will be judged at the Bema seat.

**2Cor. 5:10**

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

**1Cor. 3:10-15**

According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

The unbeliever will be judged at the Great White Throne. Rev. 20:11-15 God will judge!

**Rev. 20:11-15**

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

“ James 5:11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord--that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

Job got a Double blessing at the end! (Job 42:12) That is such a great encouragement for us to endure because when we endure we will be blessed abundantly.

“ James 5:12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes," be "Yes," and your "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment.

Above all! Do not swear but let your yes be yes and your no be no.

**Matt. 5:37**

But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No." For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

Don't only talk, just do it!

“ James 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

We have a relationship with Jesus Christ in all circumstances!

\*If you suffer - It can be that we suffer for His name, but we should keep in touch with Jesus Christ with our prayers.

\*If you are cheerful - When we are cheerful, we should keep in touch with Jesus Christ with our worship singing praises.

“ James 5:14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

\*If you are sick - A Christian can become sick because of sin, test, or that God's work can be revealed. (Rom. 5:12, Job 2:4-6, John 9:1-3)

The sick one should call for the elders, the leaders of the church. They can anoint the sick one with oil in the name of the Lord. Oil is a symbol of medicine and the Holy Spirit. (\*Medicine: Isa. 1:6, Luke 10:34, \*Holy Spirit: Hebr. 1:9 see also Mark 6:13)

It is God's will for His children to be healthy, healthy in spirit and healthy in body.

“ James 5:16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

We see that the confession of sin is very important. If God forgives sin the healing can break through in a person's life. See for example the paralytic in Mark 2:5.

### **Mark 2:5**

When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."  
After his sin was forgiven Jesus Christ healed him.

### **Mark 2:11-12**

"I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." 12 Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Also, in Psalm 103:3 we find the principle of healing after the forgiveness of sin.

### **Psalm 103:3**

Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases,

The effective prayer is a prayer according to God's will. The prayer of a righteous man is the prayer of Jesus Christ through us. Only through His life in us, we can lead a righteous life. In Christ, we became the righteousness of God. We become righteous by faith.

So, give yourself 100% over to Him and for the work of the Kingdom of God and God will hear your prayer.

“ James 5:17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.  
18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

James, the man of prayer uses the Holy Scripture to prove that God can use each one of us to have a powerful prayer life. (Notice: James is not using his own testimonies)  
When we study the prayer of Elijah we see that he prayed according to God's will under the leading of the Holy Spirit. (For further study see Elijah's prayer)

But let's not forget that James gave this example from Elijah, about the prayer of faith that can heal the sick.

### **James 5:15**

and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up.

There will be miracles when you believe!

“ James 5:19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

If we turn back a sinner from his wrong way, we will save him from death. (spiritual

death) God will forgive anybody who will come back to him. Also, the person who brings a sinner back will save his soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

**Ezekiel 3:18-21**

18 When I say to the wicked, "You shall surely die," and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. 19 Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

20 "Again, when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you did not give him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand. 21 Nevertheless if you warn the righteous man that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; also you will have delivered your soul."