

James.

A translation.



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James.

From James, a servant of God 1:1.

¹ From James, a servant of God and our lord, Jesus the messiah, to the twelve scattered tribes. Greetings.

Testing produces determination 1:2-4.

² Consider it total joy, my brothers, when you experience various troubles. ³ Know that it produces determination when your faith is tested. ⁴ Let that determination have its full effect, so that you can be complete and well. You will lack nothing.

Ask God for wisdom 1:5-8.

⁵ If anyone lacks wisdom, he must ask God, who gives to everyone. He will not disappoint. He will give it to him. ⁶ But, he must ask with trust, without doubting. Whoever doubts is like someone being thrown back and forth by the waves in the ocean. ⁷ That man should not expect to receive anything from the lord. ⁸ He is a doubtful man. He is unstable in all his ways.

The rich man can boast in his humility 1:9-12.

⁹ The humble brother can boast in his high position, ¹⁰ but the rich man in his humility. He will disappear like the flower of the meadow. ¹¹ The sun rose during the heat of the day, and dried up the meadow. Its flower fell off. It lost its apparent beauty. So also, the efforts of the rich will wither up. (Isaiah 40:6-7) ¹² A man is blessed who survives trouble. When he is approved, he will get the crown of life. He promised it to those who love him.

God tempts no one 1:13-15.

¹³ No one who is tempted can say, "God tempted me." God is not tempted by evil. Nor does he tempt anyone. ¹⁴ Each person is tempted by his own desire, when he is dragged off and baited. ¹⁵ Then the desire which has seized him conceives sin. When sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.

He gave birth to us 1:16-18.

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my dear brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and absolutely every present comes from above. They come down from the father of the lights. There is no variation nor even a shadow of change with him. ¹⁸ At his own initiative, he gave birth to us by the word of truth so that we might become some kind of first fruit of his creation.

Anger does not produce righteousness 1:19-20.

¹⁹ Think, my dear brothers. Make sure that every man is quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. ²⁰ The anger of a man does not produce the righteousness of God.

²¹ When you put away all filthy things and the excess of evil things, you demonstrate the implanted word with humility. It can save your lives.

Become doers of the word 1:22-25.

²² Become doers of the word, and not just hearers. You would be deluding yourselves. ²³ If anyone is a hearer of the word, but not a doer, then he is like a man who observes his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ He considered himself, then went away. Then, he immediately forgot what he looked like. ²⁵ When he leans in to look at the absolute law of freedom, and continues in it, then he does not become a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the action. He will become blessed by his conduct.

²⁶ If anyone thinks that he is religious, while not bridling his tongue, then he has deceived his heart. His religion is worthless.

²⁷ This is pure and unstained religion before God and the father—look out for orphans and widows during their troubles, and keep yourself untarnished by the world.

Do not show partiality 2:1-13.

²¹ My brothers, do you possess the faith of our lord Jesus the glorious messiah without discrimination? ² Suppose a man came into your meeting wearing a gold ring with fancy clothes. But also, a poor man came in with shabby clothes. ³ But, will you look at the one wearing fancy clothes, and say, “You sit right there”? Will you say to the poor man, “You should stand,” or, “Sit over there by my footstool”? ⁴ Do not show partiality with each other. Do not become judges with evil intentions.

⁵ Listen, my dear brothers. God did not select the poor in the world to be rich in faith and for an inheritance of the kingdom—which he promised to those who love him. ⁶ But you disrespect the poor man. Do the rich not harass you, and drag you into court? ⁷ Do they not slander the good name which you call on?

⁸ If you fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Leviticus 19:18), then you do well. ⁹ If you discriminate, then you are committing sin. You have been convicted by the law as a violator. ¹⁰ Because anyone who tries to keep the whole law, but stumbles in just one thing, has become liable for all of them. ¹¹ For where it says, “Do not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14), it also said, “Do not murder” (Exodus 20:13). If you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, then you still have become a law violator. ¹² So speak and act like someone who will be judged by the law of freedom. ¹³ Because the judgment will be merciless for those who fail to show mercy. Mercy wins out over judgment.

Faith is dead without actions 2:14-26.

¹⁴ What is the advantage, my brothers, if someone claims to have faith, but does not have actions? Does this faith save him?

¹⁵ Suppose a brother or sister become naked and lack daily food. ¹⁶ But one of you might say to them, “Go in peace, stay warm, and be full.” But you did not take care of their physical needs. What good is it?

¹⁷ Faith is the same. If it is without actions, then it is dead by itself. ¹⁸ However, someone might say, “You have faith, but I have actions.” Show me your faith without actions, and I will show you my faith with actions. ¹⁹ You believe that God is one. You do well—but the demons also believe and shudder. ²⁰ Are you willing to understand, O vain man, that faith without actions is useless?

²¹ Was our father Abraham made righteous by his actions when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar (Genesis 22:9-12)? ²² You can see that his faith was working together with his actions. Faith is completed by actions. ²³ It was fulfilled when scripture says, “Abraham believed in God. That was credited to him for righteousness.” (Genesis 15:6) So, he was called a friend of God. ²⁴ You understand that a man becomes justified by his works, and not just by faith alone.

²⁵ In the same way, was Rahab the prostitute not also made righteous by her actions? She welcomed the messengers. Then she sent them away on another route. (Joshua 2:1-22)

²⁶ Just like the body is dead without the spirit, so faith is also dead without actions.

The tongue is a fire 3:1-12.

³¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers. You know that we will be judged more harshly.

² We all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in his speech, then he is a really mature man. He must be able to bridle his whole body.

³ When we place the bit into the mouth of the horses to make them obey us, then we turn their entire body around. ⁴ Look, boats are also huge. They are pushed around by strong winds. A tiny rudder controls it, wherever the desire of the pilot wants.

⁵ Similarly, the tongue is just a small body part, but it can boast strongly. Consider how a small flame sets the entire forest on fire. ⁶ The tongue is a fire. The tongue is made into a world of unrighteousness among our body parts. It stains the entire body. It sets the wheel of life on fire. It is set on fire by hell.

⁷ Every breed of wild animal, bird, reptile, and also sea creature are tamed and have been tamed by human nature. ⁸ However, no one among men is able to tame the tongue. It is an unstable evil. It is full of deadly poison.

⁹ We bless our lord and father with it. We also curse men with it, who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ Blessing and curse come out of the same mouth. My brothers, it ought not be like this.

¹¹ Can a well produce both fresh and bitter from the same opening?

¹² Is it possible, my brothers, for a fig tree to produce olives, or a grapevine to produce figs? Neither can salty water produce fresh water.

Wisdom is peaceful 3:13-4:3.

¹³ Who is wise and knowledgeable among you? He must demonstrate his actions with good conduct in wise humility.

¹⁴ If you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not boast and lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom which comes down from above. Instead, it is worldly, secular, and demonic. ¹⁶ Wherever jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and all kinds of worthless matters.

¹⁷ However, the wisdom that is from above is first innocent, then peaceful, fair, obedient, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, and without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ The fruit of righteousness is sown with peace to those who practice peace.

⁴ ¹ Where do wars and quarrels among you come from? Is it not from your pleasures that they wage war in your limbs? ² You want, but you do not have. You murder and covet, but you are not able to get. You argue and fight.

You do not have because you do not ask. ³ You ask but you do not receive, because you ask wrongly so that you can use it for your pleasures.

Friendship with the world is hostility toward God 4:4-10.

⁴ Do you adulteresses not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? If anyone wants to be friends with the world, he has turned into an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think that scripture carelessly says, Does the spirit, which he placed inside us, lean toward envy (Exodus 20:5)? ⁶ He shows more favor, which is why it says,

“God opposes the arrogant,
but shows favor for the humble” (Proverbs 3:34).

⁷ So, submit yourself to God. However, resist the devil, and he will run away from you. ⁸ Come near to God, and he will come near to you. Clean your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you doubters. ⁹ Be upset, be sad, and cry. Turn your laughter into sadness, and your joy into misery. ¹⁰ Humble yourself before the lord, and he will give you honor.

Do not slander each other 4:11-12.

¹¹ Do not slander each other, brothers. Anyone who slanders his brother, or condemns his brother, slanders the law, and condemns the law. If you condemn the law, then you are not a lawkeeper, but its judge. ¹² There is just one lawgiver and judge—the one who can save and destroy. But, who are you to condemn your neighbor?

Say, "If the lord wants" 4:13-17.

¹³ Come on, now. Some people say, "Today or tomorrow, we will travel to this city, and stay there for a year. We will conduct business, and make some money." ¹⁴ None of you know what your life will be tomorrow. You are just a mist that appears for a little while, then disappears.

¹⁵ Instead, you should say, "If the lord wants, we will live, and then we will do such and such." ¹⁶ So now, you boast in your arrogance. Every kind of boasting like this is evil. ¹⁷ Therefore, anyone who knows the good that he should do, but then he does not do it, he sins.

Your riches have become rotten 5:1-6.

⁵ ¹ Come on now, rich folks—cry and wail when troubles come over you.

² Your riches have become rotten, and your clothes have become ruined by moths. ³ Your gold and silver are rusted. Their poison should be evidence to you. They will eat your flesh. You have stored them up like fire in the last days.

⁴ Look, the wages of the workers who reap your fields for you, which you fail to pay, are crying out. The shouts of those reapers have entered the ears of the lord of the armies.

⁵ You lived in luxury and comfort on the earth. You fed your hearts for the day of slaughter. ⁶ You condemn and murder the righteous person. He does not even resist you.

Be patient 5:7-8.

⁷ So, be patient, brothers, until the arrival of the lord. Look, the farmer waits for the valuable fruit from the earth. He waits on it until after the early and late rains arrive. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, because the arrival of the lord is close.

Do not moan against each other 5:9.

⁹ Brothers, do not moan against each other so that you are not condemned. Look, the judge stands at the door.

Consider patience 5:10-11.

¹⁰ Brothers, consider the example of the suffering and patience of the prophets. They spoke in the name of the lord. ¹¹ Look, we call those who were patient blessed. You heard about the determination of Job (Job 1:20-22, 2:9-10, 13:15). You also know the purpose of the lord—the lord is very compassionate and merciful.

Do not swear 5:12.

¹² Before anything else, my brothers, do not swear—neither by heaven, nor the earth, nor any other vow. Instead, let your ‘Yes’ be a ‘Yes’, and your ‘No’ be a ‘No’. That way, you might not fall into condemnation.

Pray for each other 5:13-18.

¹³ Is anyone suffering among you? He should pray. Is anyone happy? He should sing. ¹⁴ Is anyone unhealthy among you? He should call on the elders of the congregation. They should pray over him. They should anoint him with oil in the name of the lord. ¹⁵ The faithful prayer will heal the sick person. Then the lord will pick him up. If he has committed any sins, then he will be forgiven.

¹⁶ Confess your sins to each other. Pray for each other, so that you can be cured. The effective request of a righteous man is very powerful.

¹⁷ Elijah was a man just like us. He offered a prayer so that it would stop raining (1 Kings 17:1). So, it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and the sky started raining (1 Kings 18:41-46). The earth started growing fruit.

Turn a sinner around 5:19-20.

¹⁹ My brothers, suppose anyone of you might drift away from the truth, and someone turns him back around. ²⁰ he should know that he turned a sinner around from the error of his way. He will save his life from death. He will cover over lots of sins.