

## James Chapter One When the Going Gets Tough...

Intro: One of the first questions to answer about the Author of this book is this:  
WHO WAS JAMES?

James was and still is a popular name. It is the same as Jacob in the O.T. There are **FOUR** prominent men named James in the Scriptures, but which one wrote this book?

1. James, the Disciple...
  - a. He was the Brother of John.
  - b. Together, these two brothers were impulsive... Loud... and Jesus gave them a nickname: The Sons of Thunder!
  - c. James the disciple was the first disciple to be martyred for the sake of Christ, in 44 A.D.
  - d. So, he is probably NOT the author...
  
2. James, the brother of Matthew...
  - a. The Bible doesn't say much about him...
  - b. So, neither will we...
  
3. James, the Father of Judas...
  - a. The Bible only mentions him once...
  - b. And now, so have we...
  
4. And then there is James, the half-brother of Jesus Christ...
  - a. He probably is the Author of this letter.
    - i. He could have "Name Dropped" that He was the brother of Jesus.... I probably would have started every conversation that way if I were him...
    - ii. But humbly, James just says that he was "a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ."
  - b. James, like many of us, DID NOT grow up believing in Jesus...
    - i. In fact, he and his brothers came to stop Jesus from ministering one time, but Jesus dismissed them, kindly.
    - ii. BUT, In the upper room prayer meeting after the crucifixion of Jesus, James was there, along with the rest of Jesus' family.

- c. James, the Author of this letter became the Pastor of the Church in Jerusalem.
  - i. The Apostle Paul referred to him as a pillar of the Church in Galatians 2:9.
  - ii. James wisely administrated over some of the first controversies of the New Testament Church.

Who was James written to?

- To the 12 tribes which are scattered abroad...
- IE, He wrote this to Christian Jews outside of Jerusalem, SO we can conclude that we too are included in his audience.

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

- This is a humble way of introducing himself, right? James... just a servant here... And I have a few things to share with you... So, **rejoice!** Greetings

## TESTING OF YOUR FAITH

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

- **This is NOT our natural reaction to trials, is it?**
  - But, we are NOT natural... We are born again... We are spiritual people. We are Kingdom people. We are people of faith.
    - We have an enemy who at times is given permission to attack us – When he does... Count it all joy and respond with thanksgiving, joy, and peace! **WHY?...**

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. **CEV - You know that you learn to endure by having your faith tested.**

- **Albert Barnes** - Patience is one of the fruits of such a trial, and the grace of patience is worth the trial which it may cost to procure it.
  - Listen, do not pray for patience, and then be surprised when trials

come. Spiritual maturity comes with a price... NO PAIN, NO GAIN!  
**BUT...**

4 But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

- Trials and tribulations will make a wise person mature... **But...**

## WISDOM BY FAITH

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, (*God will not scold us for asking*) **[Ask]** and it will be given to him. 6 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.

- **Proverbs 3:5** Trust in the LORD with all your heart **And lean not on your own understanding**; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.
- **Psalms 37:4** Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring *it* to pass.

## THE DOUBTER

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.

- I remember taking the grandkids for their swimming lessons. Half of them jumped right in the pool, but some stood at the edge of the pool and whimpered and cried... After a few lessons, they ALL jumped right in.
  - They found out that swimming was not as scary as they thought.
    - THEN... as other new kids joined the lessons, MY Grands rolled their eyes when the new kids cried and whimpered.
  - Fear is a prison, isn't it? It makes us "Double-minded" and turns us into doubters.
    - When it comes to serving Jesus... JUMP IN! It is not nearly as scary as it looks at first. He will be in the water with you Isaiah 43 says! BUT... Remember to be humble...

## GET LOW

9 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.

**NLT - Believers who are poor have something to boast about, for God has honored them. 10 And those who are rich should boast that God has humbled them. They will fade away like a little flower in the field.**

## PERISHING PURSUITS

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.

- **GUZIK** - The riches of this world will certainly **fade away** - but James says that the **rich man also will fade away**. If we put our life and our identity into things that **fade away**, we will **fade away** also. How much better to put our life and our identity into things that will never fade! If a man is only rich in this world, when he dies, he *leaves* his riches. But if a man is rich before God, when he dies, he *goes to* his riches.

## TAMING TEMPTATION

12 Blessed (*Happy*) is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, (*Approved is a pleasant way of saying someone has died*) he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. 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.

14 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. 16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

Next week we will look at three ways to tame temptation. HINT: ALL of them have to do with how we consider the Lord when we consider temptation... Until then – **REJOICE!!!**