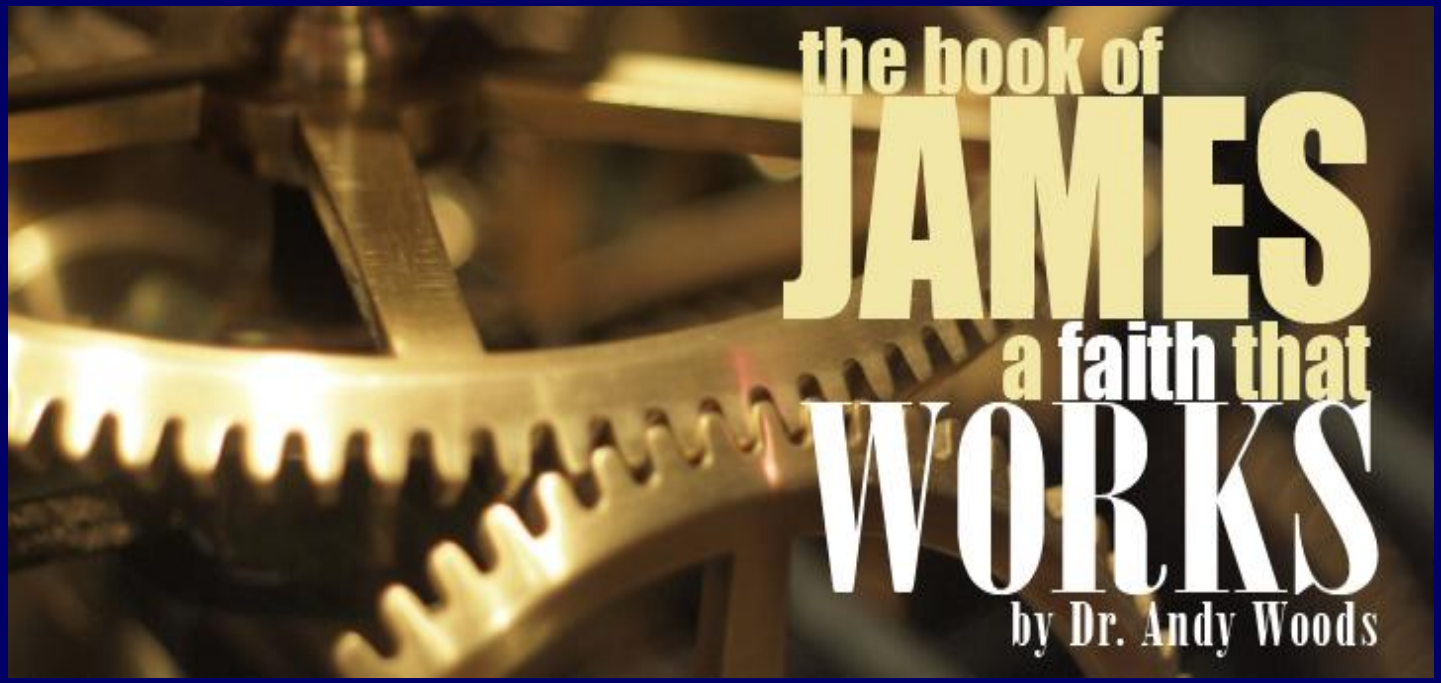
PRACTICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS





Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary

Answering Eleven Questions



1) Who wrote it? – **James**
2) What do we know about the author? – **Christ's ½ Brother**
3) Who was the audience? – **Believing Jews in the Diaspora**
4) Where was if written from? – **Jerusalem**
5) When was the book written? – **A.D. 44–47**
6) What was the book's occasion? – **Practical righteousness**
7) What is the book's purpose? – **Achieving practical righteousness**
8) What is the book about? – **Practical righteousness**
9) What is the book's theme? – **Daily living**
10) What makes the book different? – **Practicality**
11) How is the book organized? – **Faith and Wisdom**

JAMES STRUCTURE

I. Faith (James 1:1–3:12)

II. Wisdom (James 3:13–5:20)



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I. **<u>Faith (James 1:1–3:12)</u>**

II. Wisdom (James 3:13–5:20)



JAMES STRUCTURE

- Faith (1:1–3:12)
  - Trials (1:2-18)
  - Obedience to the Word (1:19-27)
  - Favoritism (2:1-13)
  - Faith manifesting works (2:14-26)
  - Tongue (3:1-12)



JAMES STRUCTURE

I. Faith (James 1:1–3:12)

II. **Wisdom (James 3:13–5:20)**



Structure

- **Wisdom (3:13–5:20)**
  - Wisdom defined (3:13-18)
  - Spirituality (4:1-12)
  - Commerce (4:13-17)
  - Use of wealth (5:1-6)
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Wisdom
(3:13-18)

- Wisdom is demonstrated by her actions (3:13)
- Human or earthly wisdom (3:14-16)
- Heavenly wisdom (3:17-18)



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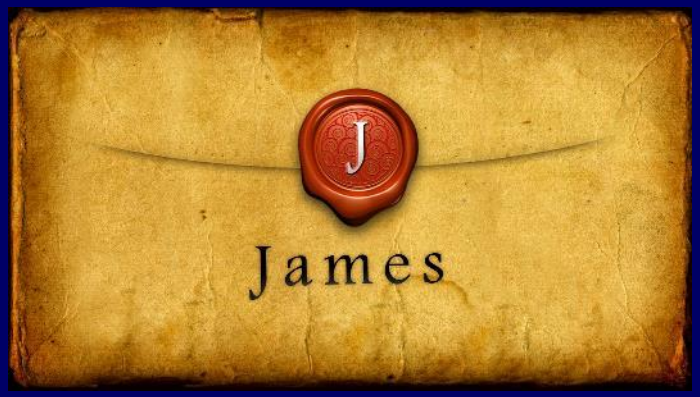


Spiritual Life
(4:1-12)

I. Avoid wrangling (4:1-3)

II. Avoid worldliness (4:4-6)

III. Essence of spiritual wisdom (4:7-12)

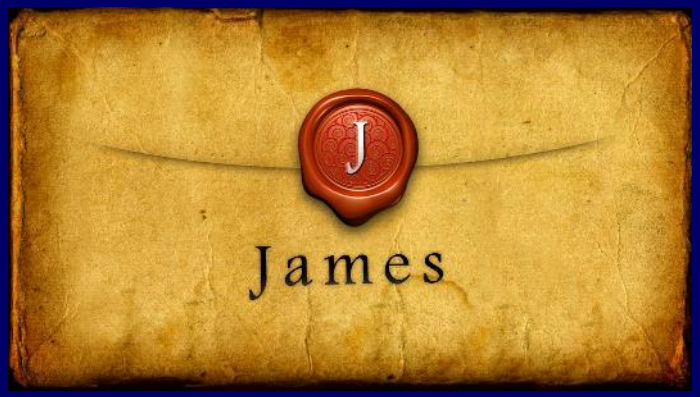


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III. Essence of Spiritual Wisdom
(4:7-12)

A. Submission to God (4:7a)

B. Resist Satan (4:7b)

C. Draw near to God (4:8a)

D. Repent (4:8b-9)

E. Humility (4:10)

F. Forego judgment (11-12)



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Three Tenses of Salvation

Phase	Justification	Sanctification	Glorification
Tense	Past	Present	Future
Saved from sin's:	Penalty	Power	Presence
Scripture	Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5	Philip 2:12	Rom 5:10
Nature	Single	Dual	Single

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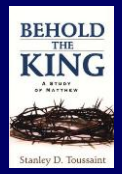
Binding and Loosing

Matthew 16:18-19

“[18] And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. [19] I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you **bind** on earth shall have been **bound** in heaven, and whatever you **loose** on earth shall have been **loosed** in heaven.”

Matthew 18:18-20

“[18] Truly I say to you, whatever you **bind** on earth shall have been **bound** in heaven; and whatever you **loose** on earth shall have been **loosed** in heaven. [19] Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. [20] For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.”



Binding and Loosing Takeaways

1. Matt. 16:19 involves Peter's future kingdom role.
2. Those on earth are to follow what heaven has already determined (and not vice versa).
3. Spiritual warfare is not in the context.
4. The authority to bind and to loose was only given to the apostles.
5. The Church has a more limited degree of authority to bind and to loose.

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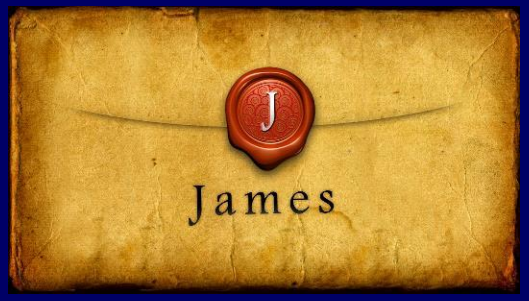
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Audience

- Jewish (1:1)
- Persecution (Acts 8:1-4; 11:19)
- In Babylon-Mesopotamia or North-Central Turkey?
- **<u>Believers (Jas 1:2-4)</u>**



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John F. MacArthur

The Gospel According to Jesus: What Does Jesus Mean When He Says, "Follow Me"? (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988), 218-19.

“One of the most comprehensive invitations to salvation in all the Epistles comes in James 4:7 – 10. While James directs most of his epistle to genuine believers, it is also evident that he is concerned about those who are not genuine. He wants no one to be deceived regarding true salvation, so he calls for a real, living, saving faith that is distinct from the dead faith of chapter 2. He states his objective in 5:20. It is to see ‘the sinner converted from the error of his way and his soul saved from death.’ The invitation in 4:7 – 10 is directed at those who are not saved — guilty, wicked hearers of the Word who are not…



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…doers (cf. 1:21 – 22); who are still captive to dead faith (cf. 2:14 – 20); who are bitter, selfish, arrogant liars whose 'wisdom is not what comes from above but is earthy, natural, demonic" (3:15); who are loving the world and thus are the enemies of God (4:4); whose inner spirit is still dominated by lusts (cf. 4:5); and who are proud and self-sufficient (cf. 4:6). They are in desperate need of God's grace. But since God only 'gives grace to the humble' (v. 6), James calls these 'sinners' (a term used in Scripture only of the unregenerate) to turn from their pride and humble themselves. **Ten imperatives** . . .



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. . .delineate the commands in James's call to sinners: submit yourself to God (salvation); resist the devil (transferring allegiance); draw near to God (intimacy of relationship); cleanse your hands (repentance); purify your hearts (confession); be miserable, mourn, weep, and let your laughter and joy be turned to gloom (sorrow). The final imperative summarizes the mentality of those who are converted: 'Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord.' All this is a work of God, who gives His more abundant grace (4:6)."

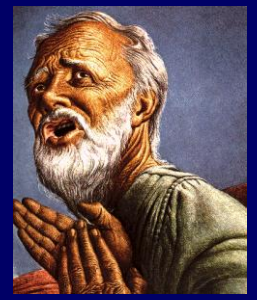
Belief – God's One Condition for Justification

Gen 15:6

Then he **believed** in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever **believes** in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.



Acts 16:30-31

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They said, "**Believe** in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."

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F. Forego judgment (11-12)



Hall of the Humbled

(Prov. 16:18; 1 Peter 5:5)

- Satan (Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:12-17; 1 Tim. 3:6)
- Uzziah (2 Chron 26:16)
- Herod (Acts 12:20-23)
- Paul (2 Cor 12:1-10)



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F. **<u>Forego judgment (11-12)</u>**



1 Corinthians 4:5

"Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of *men's* hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God."



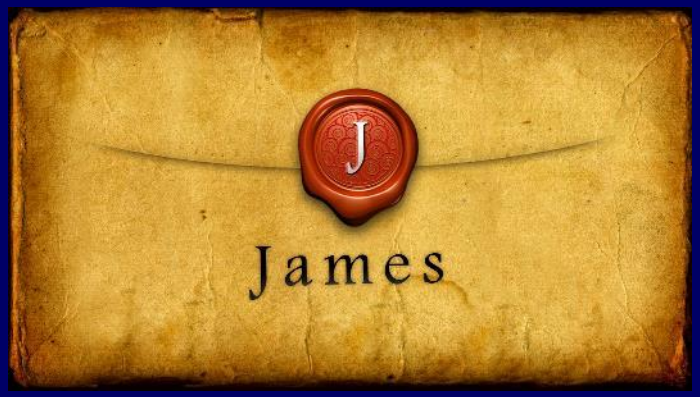
CONCLUSION

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