

**Passage:** James 1:1

**Title:** Real Faith, that Shows Up in Real Life

**Summary:** There are only 108 verses in this short Book, yet we will see and hear, 54 imperatives (which are callings to do this, and to do that). It is a “Doing” Book, and if we will do what this Book calls us to do, we will go deeper our Christian maturity, and we will have “A Real Faith, that Shows Up in Real Life”

### **Book Summation**

If I ask you today, of the 27 letters/books of the New Testament, which one would you give first to that person who has recently come to salvation through the preaching of the Gospel. Of course, most of us would say I would have them read John, or one of the other Gospels, or Romans, oh tough choice because now I think of all the riches of Ephesians. Well, and most all the scholars agree, the first Book God gave in written form?..... it is open before you, the Book of James. I find that fascinating, and I personally am not trying to put it in order of the most significant Book in the New Testament, but I can't pass on how interesting it is that first Book of all twenty-seven put in written form, is this one.

But..... I do see the great significance of this Book, so I won't pass on why it is first and one of the first; for it is written to call and to bring a Believer into mature faith. A faith that shows, a faith that shows up!

A Faith that shows up in how we handle trials, temptation, money... It's more than intentions, but a faith that produces action. A Faith that affects how we treat people less fortunate... A Faith that works... A Faith that affects how we talk and what we say... A Faith that doesn't conform to the world but seeks wisdom from above... A Faith that walks humbly and prays fervently... A Faith that connects with other believers in meaningful ways...

### **A Real Faith, that Shows Up in Real Life!**

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Here are three key verses to get us going:

*James 2:20 (NKJV)*<sup>20</sup> *But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?*

*James 1:22 (NKJV)*<sup>22</sup> *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

*James 1:5 (NKJV)*<sup>5</sup> *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.*

### **Prayer**

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)*<sup>12</sup> *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

### **In Every Study**

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)*<sup>16</sup> *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

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

## 4 James in NT / James ½ Brother of Jesus

Verse 1 – James: There are four James mentioned in the New Testament; the James of this book is the half-brother of Jesus. Same mother, different fathers. James' father was Joseph, Jesus Father is God: (Galatians 1:19 KJV) *But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.*

(Matthew 13:55 NKJV) *"Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?"*

Of the four men named James in the NT, only two are candidates for authorship of this epistle.

1. No one seriously considers James the Less, the son of Alphaeus (Matt 10:3, Acts 1:13),
2. or James the father of Judas (not Iscariot) (Luke 6:16, Acts 1:13).
3. Some have suggested James the son of Zebedee and brother of John (Matt 4:21), but he was martyred too early to have written it (Acts 12:2).
4. That leaves only James the oldest half-brother of Jesus (Mark 6:3) and brother of Jude (Matt 13:55) who also wrote the epistle that bears his name (Jude). James would become a leader in the early church we see from Acts 21.

This is quite possibly the first book written of the New Testament. It was written somewhere around 45AD, only a dozen or so years after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (33AD).

Church history states that in 62 AD, James died a martyr's death. The Jews took him to the highest point of the Temple. They ordered him to recant his faith before all the people. Instead, he boldly preached the Gospel. The Jews were so angry they pushed him off the pinnacle of the Temple. When he survived the fall, they beat him to death with clubs as he knelt and prayed.

Now, I don't want to spend a lot of time there some try to say that the brethren the brothers and sisters of Jesus were really cousins and of course those are people who want to preserve the perpetual virginity of Mary. Well the scripture knows nothing of that and clearly teaches that Jesus had brothers and sisters when the New Testament wants to say cousins it says cousins, when it wants to say brothers and sisters it says brothers and sisters. We can see from Matthew 13 that Jesus had at least 4 brothers and at least 2 sisters (because the word for sisters is plural). One of his brothers was Judas (Jude) who will write the Book of Jude, so remember that when we come to that book here some day in the future.

*Matthew 13:54–56 (NKJV)* <sup>54</sup> *When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works?"* <sup>55</sup> *Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?"* <sup>56</sup> *And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?"*

## First Didn't Believe / Then the Resurrection

James doesn't believe that Jesus is God when He walked this earth:

(John 7:5 NKJV) *For even His brothers did not believe in Him.*

But after the resurrection Jesus appears to him, and everything changes:

(1 Corinthians 15:4 NKJV) *and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,*

(1 Corinthians 15:5 NKJV) *and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.*

(1 Corinthians 15:6 NKJV) *After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.*

(1 Corinthians 15:7 NKJV) *After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.*

## Imagine that Meeting

Imagine what that meeting must have been like: the two brothers sitting together like they had so many times as brothers, but this time Jesus is sitting, and there is no mistaking His nailed-scarred hands; He would no doubt say to His younger brother, it is true, I am God, I am everything that I said I was when I walked on this earth as your brother.

## When See Resurrected Christ

Whether James or you, when you see the resurrected Christ through an empty cross and an empty tomb, everything will change for you.

### He Writes – As He Reflects / Love in a Sinful World

Now James is going to write us this letter, he will talk about everyday practical stuff. He will talk about trials in life, our works, our tongue, prayer, and other things; as he writes these things, he will be remembering how Jesus handled them, as James will reflect back on watching situations, and watching his oldest brother. He will reflect on a life of love, and a life of sinlessness, in a world that can be so hateful at times, and so full of sin.

### Dad's Death / Financial Hardship / Midnight Prayers

James would reflect back on trials the family had faced, and he will remember how his older brother handled them. He would remember how Jesus handled dad's death (Joseph). Knowing the nature of Jesus he would have called them for prayer and comforted them with the promises of God. Maybe that caused financial hardship upon the family (they lacked food or clothing – remember Joseph and Mary could only provide two turtledoves at the Temple), and James would remember how Jesus would tell the family that God would provide. James after the resurrection meeting would remember back how Jesus always had the right word for the right time. He would remember all those times that he woke up early to get a drink of water and see/hear Jesus praying to the Father.

### It All Makes Sense Now

After the resurrection meeting, James would say it all makes sense now, I can see clearly now. James who thought Jesus was out of his mind, would see that it was he who wasn't in the right mind.

*(Matthew 12:46 NKJV) While He was still talking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him.*

*(Matthew 12:47 NKJV) Then one said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You."*

James would be known church history tells us as "Old Camel Knees", because he spent so much time in prayer that his knees became callous. Of course that makes sense, as He would miss the leadership of his older brother, but know that Jesus was not far away, and that he could come and fellowship with Him, and ask for help from Him in such a great time of need.

### Leader In Church / Writes Hindsight / Everyday Life

James would become a leader in the church, a pillar in the church

*(Acts 21:17 NKJV) And when we had come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly.*

*(Acts 21:18 NKJV) On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present.*

*(Galatians 2:9 NKJV) and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.*

So James will write these things based on hindsight, based on first hand witnessing of watching his older brother lived life, everyday. It has been said the problem with life, is that it is so daily. James watched Jesus handle everyday life, and that is what this book is about; it is about living everyday life as a Follower of God, in a fallen world. If James had written this book in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, he might have titled it,

- "Things I've Learned from God", or
- "30 years with Jesus",
- "Conversations with God",
- "Sharing a Bedroom with God",
- "My Brother can Beat Your Brother Up".

## Jesus Rubbed Off / Nature Illustrations / Sermon on Mount

We can see how much Jesus rubbed off on James, for James style resembles his brother so much. Like Jesus used nature as illustrations for His teaching points, so does James some 30 times. He uses nature analogies such as the sea, flowers, sun, fire, horses and ships to name a few). It is obvious who James favorite teacher was, because this epistle covers almost every topic that Jesus covered in the Sermon on the Mount. There is amazing parallelisms between the two; James does not actually quote the Lord's words, but he obviously had internalized Jesus' teachings and reproduced them with spiritual depth. Jesus covered about 30 topics in the Sermon on the Mount, and we will see that James touches on every one of them in this epistle. The Book of James is the New Testament Version of the Old Testament Proverbs. It resembles Proverbs because it is almost poetic.

This what do you expect from somebody who grew up and their older brother was God. The kind of an attitude James would have, as we read through this epistle he's saying live as mature disciples, the living Christ can be in your heart there's no messing around do this, live this way, we have the capacity, you can do it! He's very straightforward there's no messing around in his life he despises hypocrisy, compromise, false piety false religiosity because no doubt he remembers Jesus with the Pharisees and the Sadducees and is very much in the spirit of Christ his older brother who despised the false religious system of his day who challenged hypocrisy who wouldn't put up with false religiosity and James is very much the same way because he doesn't want any of that in the church and it's very much in the spirit of his brother he wants in the life of a believer, he wants Christ likeness in our lives because no doubt he is a man who is overwhelmed with the fact that his own brother is dwelling in his heart!

Of course, this would be one of, if not the, first written record of the church. James has a new attitude after the resurrection, and he doesn't want any one (that means you too) wasting any time, not a minute not a moment, of anything less than Jesus, and all of Jesus being who He says He is, doing what He says He will do in your life, and living a faith filled life that is real.

**A Real Faith, that Shows Up in Real Life!**

## So We can Examine Self / How am I Doing

Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount so that we might examine ourselves and ask the question, "so how am I doing in each of these areas?" James writes to the church, to us, and as we read, we have to ask ourselves, "so how am I doing in these areas?" This book is practical and applicable for us living in the year 2022, and the ultimate goal of this epistle is giving to us in verse 4 of chapter 1.

Theme of the Book of James:

*(James 1:4 NKJV) But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*

*(James 1:5 NKJV) 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.*

As in school, we take tests to see how much of a handle and mastery we have on a subject, we will do the same in this book:

The Outline of the Book of James:

Chapter 1

Introduction (1:1)

The Test of Perseverance and Suffering (1:2-12)

The Test of Blame in Temptation (1:12-18)

The Test of Response to the Word (1:19-27)

Chapter 2

The Test of Partiality (2:1-9)

The Test of the Law (2:10-13)

The Test of Faith and Works (2:14-26)

Chapter 3

The Test of the Tongue (3:1-12)  
The Test of Wisdom Applied (3:13-18)

Chapter 4

The Test of the World's Influence (4:1-12)  
The Test of Dependence (4:13-17)

Chapter 5

The Test of Endurance (5:1-11)  
The Test of Prayerfulness (5:12-20)

So, let's see how we are doing as we study these five chapters over the next few months.

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

**What an Underestimate/ Bondservant / Has Your Ear been Pierced?**

*James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ* - What an understatement. If it was me writing I'm sure I would have written something like, Ray the younger brother of the Creator of the Universe. I would have made sure everybody knew my special position, so my authority in the matters of God would never be challenged. But not James, he calls himself a bondservant, which means slave.

In those days if a person in financial trouble could sell himself to someone in order to pay off a debit. It was usually for a determined time (7 years), now if at the end of seven years when he was to be set free, if he chooses to he could say I love my master, I do not want to leave my master, my master treats me well and takes care of me, I want to serve my master for life. What would happen then would be that the master would take the slave to the door of the home and pierce his ear with an awl, and then put a gold earring in, and it was a sign that he was now his bondservant. So the bondservant had the responsibility to serve the master, and the master had the responsibility to take care of all the slaves needs. Christian, have you gone to the door, have you had your ear pierced by the hand of God? For as we have said in times past, there is "power at the door", when we simply yield our lives to Him.

Oh I remember like it was yesterday 'cause it truly was in my heart mind and soul I was probably saved maybe six months or so and I was struggling with the cares of the world and the love of the world and the struggle to fully give myself and trust Jesus for everything that His word says, and not pick and choose as I chose so that I can satisfy my flesh. But I remember that night in Cocoa Beach FL, Banana River Blvd, laying in my bed struggling back and forth and then finally come into the place where I say Lord, I give up and I give in to You, and Your Word becomes my will and I will live in accordance that Your word knows better than I do. And all I can describe to you that happened it was like waves of liquid love washing over me, I don't know how long it lasted but it was one of the most beautiful moments of my life and I truly know it was the Holy Spirit washing over me and again, and again all that I can describe it as was waves of liquid love. But I know what I can clearly describe it was a Peace which passed all understanding for I knew that my life was in His hands now. And I pray that you have a moment like that when you fully surrender take your ear to the door for there is power at the door when you say I'm all yours Lord.

## **Hosted Association of Churches / To Serve Others – Not to be Served or Recognized**

So he is James the bondservant. A while back we hosted a gathering of local churches, and it was so interesting, there were few Joe's and Bob's there. Everybody introduced himself or herself as Reverend, or Bishop, or Associate Minister to the Senior Development Council - whatever that was. In a world of titles and positions, James just says, James a bondservant. I'm the under-rower of the ship, I'm just keeping the ship moving forward so the passengers can get to their destination. I wonder what the churches would be like today if people introduced themselves as Ray the slave of Jesus Christ, maybe people would see they are here to serve others, and not others to serve them. James lost his will, into the will for the heart of God.

Mind you this is written under the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit; my how I would love that the Holy Spirit would write a letter about me and He addresses it that I am a bond servant of Jesus Christ. Oh what a glorious recording that would be my prayer is that God would write a letter about me He would say such things, Ray a bond servant of Jesus Christ.

How about you?

## 12 Tribes / You are Remembered

To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings - These people were scattered for they were driven out of Jerusalem for their faith in Jesus. The twelve tribes represent the Jewish people. There were twelve tribes of Israel, and James is making a statement to them right off the top, this persecution has affected every one of us, you are not alone. And just as God preserved the children of Israel for their 40 years in the wilderness, so will He preserve and protect you. Just as they entered the Promised Land, so too will you.

## 2 Words / Scattered Unto Life Sermon Mount

Scattered, diaspora, is from two words....."dia" which means scattered about, and "speiro" which means seed. James starts by telling these people I know you are experiences hard-times, but you haven't been scattered upon not to death, but to life. For everywhere you now go, you take the seed of life unto others. You are the fulfillment of go therefore:

*(Matthew 28:19 NKJV) "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

*(Matthew 28:20 NKJV) "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

### Sermon on Mount Cross-Reference:

*(Matthew 5:13 NKJV) "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.*

*(Matthew 5:14 NKJV) "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.*

*(Matthew 5:15 NKJV) "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.*

*(Matthew 5:16 NKJV) "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

### Left Behind / Cross

Do you remember the Left Behind Movie 2, they do the old switch on the anti-christ, and the Rabbi says Jesus is the Messiah? Then Nicoli starts screaming, no, not thy will, but my will. I love that because that it so the way it is. Satan was high-fiving on that Friday, then screaming in pain on Sunday. What he thought was victory was the ultimate loss. Here he scatters the Christians, and he begins to high-five again, then it turns to screams of pain, for everywhere the Christians went, the Gospel went, and more people got saved. I love it.

## Remember at Work Tomorrow

You are planting the word of God, the precious promises of God, everywhere you go. Christian when you go to that job you don't like, or to that school you don't like, know that the Lord is scattering you for His purposes. You may very well be the last link to God and eternity that those people ever will have.

### The Scattering of Israel – 740BC

I am reminded when the Assyrians were pressing in and threatening the Southern Kingdom of Israel (Judah) around 740BC. The Northern Kingdom (10 northern tribes) will fall first and be carried away by the Assyrians, and the prophet Isaiah was sent to tell the King of Judah that they would fall too and be scattered, dispersed from their homeland because of their sin and unrighteousness. Yet God makes a beautiful promise to them even in all the uncertainty before them,

*Isaiah 7:14 (NKJV)<sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.*

"The Lord will indeed give you a sign," Isaiah said. The word "you" is plural. Therefore, it speaks not only to Ahaz, but to all humanity through all of history. You who feel threatened, intimidated, pressed upon,

worried, anxious—the Lord will give you a sign: A virgin shall conceive and bear a Son whose name means “God with us.” I love that! God says, “The sign I’m giving you is that I’ll be with you.” How? Through the miracle of the Incarnation. “Great is the mystery of godliness,” Paul says, “that God was manifest in the flesh” (1 Timothy 3:16). God was born a Man in the person of Jesus Christ.

And here is who He (God) is that is with you:

*Isaiah 9:6–7 (NKJV)*<sup>6</sup> For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

He is the God who came, and He is the God who gives, He is a God who is strong enough and caring enough to bear my burdens (the government on His shoulder), He’s a God who these very attributes are synonymous with His name; He is the wonderful counselor, He is the mighty God, and He is an everlasting Father who will never ever no ever leave you nor forsake you! And when you come in to that belief in the midst of whatever scattering you may be facing, whatever trial, whatever burden you find yourself in, you will God with you is the God who will be to you the Prince of Peace.

And you will find, and live.....

**A Real Faith, that Shows Up in Real Life!**

### **Greetings**

Greetings – This word in the Greek means “rejoice”. I am writing to you for a reason to rejoice. This letter is taken by many to be a letter of correction, but James lets us know it is written, so that we may rejoice, be glad, for applying this letter to our lives will produce fruit in our lives, we will become more like Christ, and that is a reason to Rejoice!

### **Conclusion**

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