

James: Faith at Work

"Introductory Matters" | James 1:1
Sunday, May 3rd, 2026

~An intriguing question to begin our series: In times of trial, difficulty, or stress; *what brings you comfort or security?*
When the pressure is on or something unexpected hits, who, what, or where do you turn?

> The book of James has been a book Christians turn to for comfort, strength, and encouragement when the trials of life seem to hit hard.

> The Who

~ Authorship of this letter has been studied and questioned for a long time. Most scholars see that there are 3 different men named James in the NT; other men would say there are 4 possible men: a) James, the son of Alphaeus; b) James the son of Zebedee and brother of John; c) James the father of Judas, (not Judas Iscariot)

** We believe & know that the author of this letter is James, the half brother of Jesus.

~ 2 Distinctions in vs. 1 that help us see which James is writing:

1. James, a servant (*doulos*) ... not apostle
2. He writes to the 12 tribes.... (James was a recognized leader of the church at that time)

> The What

~ James is writing to a group of Jewish Christians who have been scattered throughout Asia Minor and are being persecuted for their faith in Christ.

~ Consider the Context of that Time...

It was a big deal to identify with and follow a man who claimed to be the son of God.

~ Acts 15 & 21 let us know that James was a leader of the early church. Paul even mentions James as an associate apostle of the church in Galatians 1:19

~ James is a letter that reflects the heart of the gospel as it helps Christians live faithfully in the middle of a perverse and crooked generation.

~ The book is made up of 5 chapters, which account for 108 verses, made up with 1700 words, with roughly 60 commands.

> The Why

"Trials and temptations are inevitable in this life. But God intends both of them to deepen our faith." (David Platt)

~ This book teaches us that *faith* in Jesus without *works* for Jesus is a _____ faith that is devoid from Jesus.

~ **2 reasons as to why we should study the book of James** ~

1) To examine the relationship between _____ and _____.

2) To explore the _____ of our faith in this broken world.

Do you wanna know why this world is the way it is?
READ the _____.

Do you wanna know how we should live in the midst of it?
Study the book of _____!