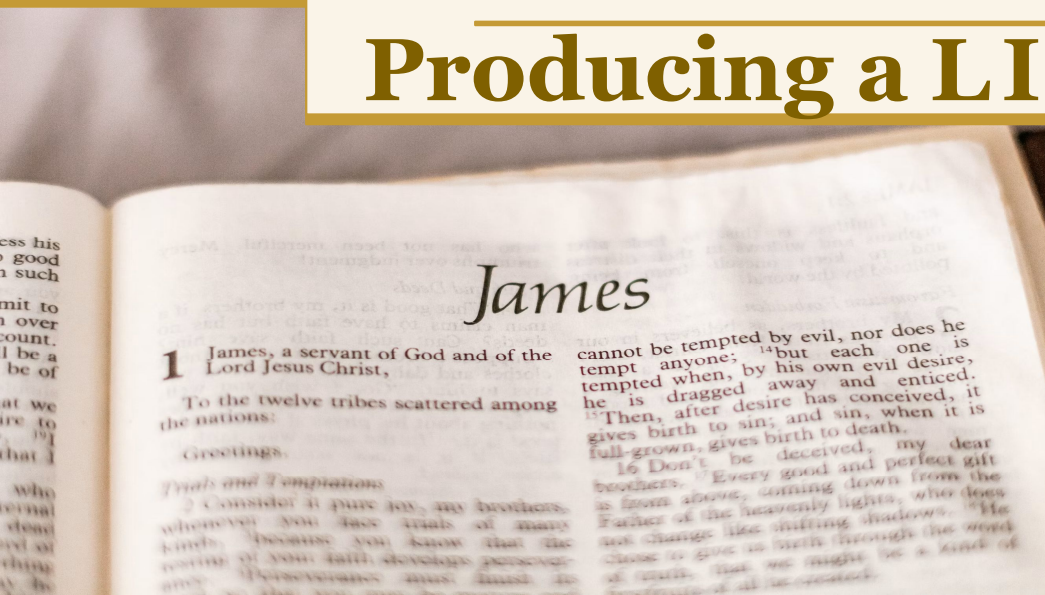




THE BOOK OF JAMES

Producing a **LIVING FAITH**



(James Intro – 1:1)

*“Producing a **LIVING** Faith”*

Outline:

1. The context of James
2. The reasons for studying James
3. The outline for James

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1. The context of James

A. The author

➤ “James” v. 1a

Ἰάκωβος

- 1) James the brother of John 1/12
- 2) James the son of Alphaeus 1/12
- 3) James the father of Judas
- 4) James the half-brother of Jesus

1. The context of James

A. The author

➤ “James” the half-brother of Jesus:

- Leader in Jerusalem church (Acts 15:13)
- Jesus’ brother (Gal. 1:19, 2:9)
- Saw risen Christ (1 Cor. 15:7)
- Not a believer at first (Jn. 7:5)

1. The context of James

B. The audience

➤ “the twelve tribes” v. 1c

➤ “scattered abroad” v. 1c

• (lit. “in the dispersion”)

1) Dispersed from Babylonian captivity.

2) Dispersed from Jerusalem persecution.

(Stephen’s Martyrdom... cf. Acts 8:1, 11:19)

1. The context of James

B. The audience

- “the twelve tribes” v. 1c
- “scattered abroad” v. 1c
- “my brethren” v. 2a
 - Other Jews?
 - Jewish believers?
 - cf. 1:3, 2:1, 12

1. The context of James

C. The background

- Early church was Jewish.
- Church is growing rapidly.
- Persecution caused a dispersion.
- Livelihoods and homes were left behind.
- Possibly the first book of the NT.

Outline:

1. The context of James
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2. The reasons for studying James

1. It is 1/66 books of Scripture.
2. James is misunderstood by most people.
3. James contains 54 verses w/imperative.
4. James is crucial for 2nd tense salvation.
5. James shapes a DVP for immature believers.

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3. The outline for James

➤ Outlining James

- “The epistle itself does not herald any clear structural plan concerning the organization of its contents.”

- Edmond Hiebert

- “A superficial glance at this epistle may easily leave the impression that every attempt to outline it must fail.”

- William Hendriksen

3. The outline for James

➤ Kephalaia structure

- “Greek rhetoricians used thematic statements near the end of their prologues to indicate their overall outline.”

- John Niemela

- “In the Roman age the main body of a speech or discourse was called the kephalaia (headings) by the Greek rhetoricians

- Zane Hodges

The κεφαλαια Structure of James:

Epilogue – 1:1-18

Thematic Statement – 1:19-20

- 1) Swift to Hear 1:21-2:26
- 2) Slow to Speak 3:1-18
- 3) Slow to Wrath 4:1-5:18

Prologue 5:19-20

Application/Summary:

➤ A challenge for myself... shared with you:

- 1) “let the Holy Spirit search you out”
- 2) “humble yourself and do what God desires of His children”
- 3) “learn to worship God in a worthy manner”