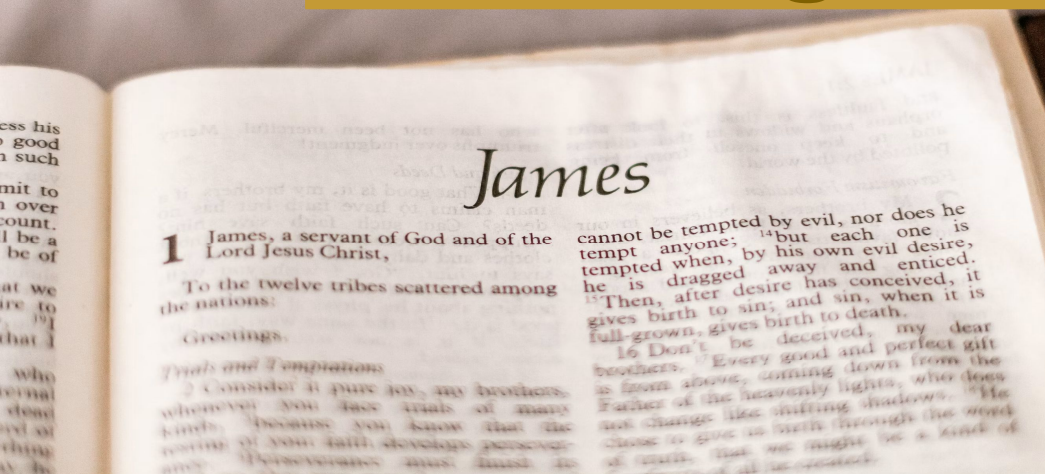




THE BOOK OF JAMES

Producing a **LIVING FAITH**



The κεφαλαια Structure of James:

Prologue – 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

Epilogue 5:19-20

REVIEW: “be quick to hear” –

- to have a doing faith 1:21-27
- to have an impartial faith 2:1-7
- to have a justified faith 2:8-13

Theological comparison to James' argument –

The flesh (default for unregenerate)

- Hostile to the word (cf. Rom. 8:7)
- Doubts the word (cf. Js. 1:6-8)
- Filled with fleshly desires (cf. Js. 1:12-16)
 - 1) Desiring phase
 - 2) Drawing phase
 - 3) Indulging phase
 - 4) Developing phase
 - 5) Death phase

Theological comparison to James' argument –

The Spirit (at war with the flesh cf. Gal 5)

A. The protocol aspect:

- **Regenerative phase** (cf. James 1:18)
- **Receptive phase**
(cf. James 1:19a “quick to hear”)
- **Reciprocal phase**
(cf. James 1:19b “slow to speak”)
- **Responsive phase**
(cf. James 1:19c “slow to wrath”)

Theological comparison to James' argument –

The Spirit (at war with the flesh cf. Gal 5)

B. The diagnostic aspect:

- Reception or rejection 1:21
- Doing or Don'ting ;-) 1:22-25
- Complete or partial 2:1-13
- Dead or alive 2:14-26

Producing a LIVING Faith Being “quick to hear”

(James 2:14-26)

“To diagnose a DEAD faith”

Outline:

1. The Patient v. 14
2. The Sample vv. 15-16
3. The Diagnosis v. 17

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1. The Patient v. 14
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1- The Patient v. 14 –

Observations:

- The patient is a believer “my brethren”
- The patient is asked to consider:

1) What is the benefit?

Benefit to what???

2) Can this faith deliver them?

Save from what???

1- The Patient v. 14 –

The patient is asked to consider:

1) What is the benefit? Benefit to what???

➤ To self?

➤ To someone? (cf. 2:8, 12-13)

➤ To both!

1- The Patient v. 14 —

The patient is asked to consider:

2) Can this faith deliver them?

What faith?

- Spurious faith? (fake)
- Professing but not possessing?
- THE faith
 - The body of truth for prescriptive practice of the believer. (cf. 2:1)

1- The Patient v. 14 –

The patient is asked to consider:

2) Can this faith deliver them?

Deliver from what?

- The penalty of sin? (cf. Rom. 4:5)
- The sin unto death? (cf. Js. 1:21)
- The unmerciful judgment? (cf. Js. 2:12-13)

Outline:

1. The Patient v. 14
2. The Sample vv. 15-16
3. The Diagnosis v. 17

2- The Sample vv. 15-16 –

Observations: Verse 15

- “If” (hypothetical likely based on reality)
- “a brother or sister” (a fellow believer)
- “is naked” (poorly clothed)
- “destitute of daily food”
(lit. “lacking daily provision”)

2- The Sample vv. 15-16 –

Observations: Verse 16

- Someone declares –
 - 1) Depart in peace
(an empathizing sendoff) v. 16b
 - 2) Be warmed and filled
(an acknowledgment of need) v. 16b
 - 3) Necessary provisions withheld v. 16c
(cf. 5:1-6!!!)

2- The Sample vv. 15-16 –

Observations: Verse 16

- Someone declares –
 - 1) Depart in peace
 - 2) Be warmed and filled
 - 3) Necessary provisions withheld v. 16c

- Prospective judgment at the Bema-Seat v. 16d

Outline:

1. The Patient v. 14
2. The Sample vv. 15-16
3. The Diagnosis v. 17

Observations:

3- The Diagnosis v. 17 –

- “thus”
- “the faith” (there is an article here!)
 - The body of truth for prescriptive practice.
 - “the hearing”
- “if not having works” (my lit. translation)
 - “be not hearers only, but doers” 1:22
- “is dead, by itself”
 - Dead??? 

- 1) Not real... (spurious)
- 2) Not present... (not possessing)
- 3) Worthless (cf. Heb. 6:1)

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”

Application/Summary:

1) “let the Holy Spirit search you out”

- Do I have “the faith?”
- Do I ONLY have “the faith?”
- What areas am I hearing and not doing?
- Am I walking in the works prepared for me?
(cf. Ephesian 2:10)

Application/Summary:

- 2) “humble yourself and do what God desires of His children”
- 3) Learn to worship God in a worthy manner”
 - Confess (1 Jn. 1:9)
 - Apply what you know.
 - Learn what you don't.
 - Lean on the LORD.
 - Edify your brethren (cf. Eph. 4)
 - Decide to obey moving forward.

James' Diatribe Argument:

- A. 3 questions to ask:
- B. Diatribe argument:
- C. James' use of the diatribe:
- D. The hypothetical opponent:

James' Diatribe Argument:

A. 3 questions to ask:

- 1) Opponent or Ally?
- 2) What is in the quotation?
- 3) What is the argument?

James' Diatribe Argument:

A. 3 questions to ask:

B. Diatribe argument:

➤ Formula:

1) Entertain opponent's position.

2) Declare their foolishness (cf. 1 Cor. 15:35-36)

➤ Diatribe never introduces an ally.

➤ James calls him a “foolish man” v. 20

➤ The man is an opponent.

James' Diatribe Argument:

C. James' use of the diatribe:

➤ Formula:

1) Introduce opponents' argument:

- But someone will say (open quote)

2) Reject that argument:

- But do you want to know, O foolish man (close quote)

➤ So... vv. 18-19 are the opponents' words.

James' Diatribe Argument:

C. The hypothetical opponent:

➤ The opponent's argument –

- “You have faith, and I have works.”
- “Show me your faith from your works,”
- “and I will show you from my works, my faith”

➤ The opponent's illustration –

- You believe God is one → you do well
- Demons believe God is one → do NOT do well

James' Diatribe Argument:

Summary:

- James says the faith (doctrine) is living or dead.
- Hypothetic opponent says:
 - 1) Faith and works are separate.
 - 2) Faith can't show works.
 - 3) Works can't show faith.
 - 4) Both believers and demons believe but different outcome.



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