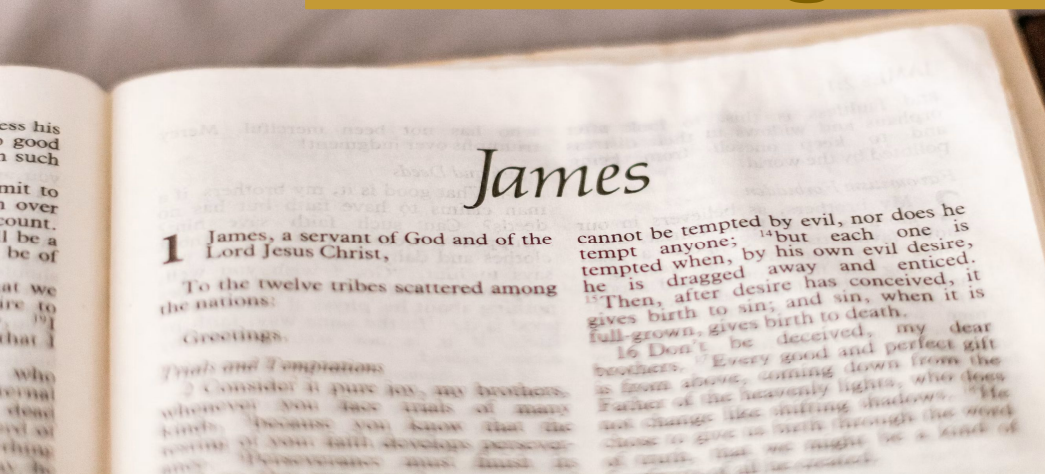




THE BOOK OF JAMES

Producing a **LIVING FAITH**



Producing a LIVING Faith Being “quick to hear”

(James 2:14-26)

“To diagnose a DEAD faith”

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 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”)

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

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

Outline: Last time

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

Outline:

1. The Diatribe Argument vv. 18-20
2. Evidence # 1 vv. 21-24
3. Evidence # 2 vv. 25-26

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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.

Outline:

1. The Diatribe Argument vv. 18-20
2. Evidence # 1 vv. 21-24
3. Evidence # 2 vv. 25-26

2- Evidence # 1 vv. 21-24 –

Observations:

The believer Abraham facing trials

- Abraham believed (Gen. 15:1-6)
- Abraham's trial v. 21 (cf. Gen. 22:2, 5)
- Faith and works are together v. 22a
- The fulfillment of faith vv. 22b-23
- The point proven v. 24

Outline:

1. The Diatribe Argument vv. 18-20
2. Evidence # 1 vv. 21-24
3. Evidence # 2 vv. 25-26

3- Evidence # 2 vv. 25-26 –

Observations:

The believer Rahab facing trials

- Rahab = justified by works. v. 25a
 - “when she received the messengers”
 - “and sent them out another way”
- “Doing” the faith (Josh. 2:1-7) v. 25b
- The faith (Josh. 2:8-14)
- The simple simile v. 26

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.

Application/Summary:

“Grace alone, by faith alone, in Christ alone!”

➤ To make this passage about ultimate salvation does 2 things:

1. Removes grace
2. Require works

➤ The Gospel:

- Jn. 3:16, 18; 5:24; 6:47; 20:30-31; Acts 16:29-31; Rom. 4:5



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