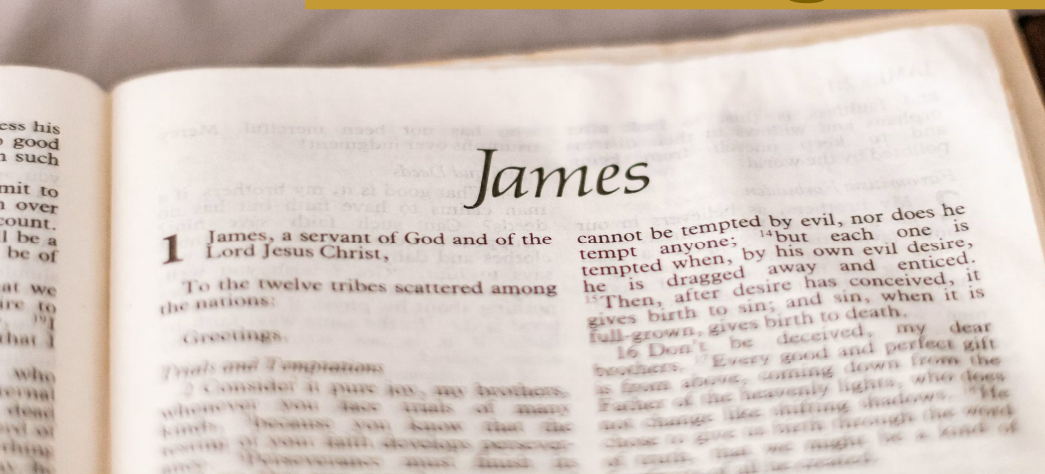




THE BOOK OF JAMES

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

Producing a LIVING Faith Being “slow to speak”

(James 3:13-18)

“The Two Streams of Wisdom”

Outline:

1. The Divine Wisdom v. 13

1- The Divine Wisdom v. 13 –

A. The aspiration of the hearer/doer:

➤ “Wise” σοφὸς

- Divine in nature (holy)
- Divine in origin (revelation)
- It is the acquiring of skillful utilization of Divine revelation.

1- The Divine Wisdom v. 13 –

A. The aspiration of the hearer/doer:

- “Wise” σοφὸς
- “Understanding”
- “pert. to being knowledgeable in a way that makes one effectual in the exercise of such knowledge, expert, learned, understanding...Js 3:13 the expert in σοφία will be verified by quality of performance” (BDAG)

1- The Divine Wisdom v. 13 –

A. The aspiration of the hearer/doer:

➤ “Wise” σοφὸς

➤ “Understanding”

- Wisdom is the utilization of knowledge.
- The hearer = understanding one
- The doer = wise one

1- The Divine Wisdom v. 13 –

B. The application of the hearer/doer:

1) Conduct

2) Works

3) Humility

1- The Divine Wisdom v. 13 –

B. The application of the hearer/doer:

1) Conduct

➤ Modified by “good”

➤ Behavior or lifestyle that is DVP approved.

1- The Divine Wisdom v. 13 –

B. The application of the hearer/doer:

2) Works

- The display of activity of any kind.
- Works are the actions that make up conduct.
- Remember... Faith w/out works is DEAD!

1- The Divine Wisdom v. 13 –

B. The application of the hearer/doer:

3) Humility

- “The quality of not being overly impressed by a sense of one’s self-importance, *gentleness, humility, courtesy, considerateness, meekness.*” (BDAG)
- The ultimate quality of DVP.
- Humility is the mindset that leads to “good conduct.” (cf. Js. 4:7-10)

Outline:

1. The Divine Wisdom v. 13
2. The Demonic Wisdom v. 14-16

2- The Demonic Wisdom vv. 14-16 –

A. The course of the flesh v. 14a –

➤ Jealousy

- Modified by “bitter” (resentful)
- Jealousy is craving what is not possessed.
- The mindset of discontentment.
- Sourced by HVP (cf. Gen. 3:1-6)

2- The Demonic Wisdom vv. 14-16 –

A. The course of the flesh v. 14a –

➤ Jealousy

➤ Selfish ambition

- Ambition = The pursuit of goals or objectives
- Selfish ambition = the pursuit of goals or objectives that seek self satisfaction.
- “We are pleasure addicts and glory thieves”

2- The Demonic Wisdom vv. 14-16 –

B. The conflict of the flesh v. 14b –

➤ “boast” (κατακαυχᾶσθε)

- Apostolic imperative.
- To take pride in something (BDAG)
- The celebration of a perceived advantage.

➤ “lie” ψεύδεσθε

- Apostolic imperative.
- “to tell a falsehood” (BDAG)

2- The Demonic Wisdom vv. 14-16 –

B. The conflict of the flesh v. 14b –

- “boast” (κατακαυχᾶσθε)
- “lie” ψεύδεσθε
- “against the truth”
 - Envy and selfish ambition have NO allegiance to the truth.
 - They are in direct contrast, and conflict with God.

2- The Demonic Wisdom vv. 14-16 –

C. The composition of the flesh v. 15 –

➤ “This wisdom”

- Wisdom = the utilization of knowledge.

- Impl. Unbiblical knowledge.

➤ “does not descend from above”

2- The Demonic Wisdom vv. 14-16 –

C. The composition of the flesh v. 15 –

➤ “but rather” is: (3 sources)

1) Earthly (The world)

- Contrasting the wisdom that comes from God

2- The Demonic Wisdom vv. 14-16 –

C. The composition of the flesh v. 15 –

➤ “but rather” is: (3 sources)

1) Earthly (The world)

2) Sensual (The flesh)

- Pertaining to the senses (hearing, seeing, smelling, touching, tasting)

- i.e. natural (unregenerate man).

2- The Demonic Wisdom vv. 14-16 –

C. The composition of the flesh v. 15 –

➤ “but rather” is: (3 sources)

1) Earthly (The world)

2) Sensual (The flesh)

3) Demonic (The devil)

- Shared with the demonic realm.

- Produced BY the demonic realm (cf. Ezek. 28:11-19)

2- The Demonic Wisdom vv. 14-16 –

D. The conduct of the flesh v. 16 –

- Where there is envy and selfish ambition v. 16a
- There is confusion and every evil thing v. 16b
 - “confusion” ἀκαταστασία
 - Disorder, insurrection, or rebellion (cf. Lk. 21:9)
 - Envy and selfish ambition directly violate the ORDER that God has authorized for creation.

2- The Demonic Wisdom vv. 14-16 –

D. The conduct of the flesh v. 16 –

- Where there is envy and selfish ambition v. 16a
- There is confusion and every evil thing v. 16b
 - “every evil thing” πᾶν φαῦλον πρᾶγμα

- Definition of evil (review)

Definition of evil (review):

- 1) Evil is not an abstract quality existing apart from God.
- 2) Evil is not created by God.
- 3) Evil is anything that goes against God's character, nature, and will and is the antithesis of Who God is and what God is doing in creation.
- 4) Evil exists in the personal, corporate, national, and universal spheres.

Outline:

1. The Divine Wisdom v. 13
2. The Demonic Wisdom v. 14-16
3. The Defined Wisdom vv. 17-18

3- The Defined Wisdom vv. 17-18 –

A. The definition of Divine Wisdom v. 17 –

1) Pure,

- “is first” meaning all other characteristics are controlled by this quality.
- Directly related to the idea of “holy”

2) Peaceable,

- Promotes the harmonious relationship which excludes conflict.

3- The Defined Wisdom vv. 17-18 –

A. The definition of Divine Wisdom v. 17 –

3) Gentle,

- “Not insisting on every right of letter of law or custom, *yielding, gentle, kind, courteous, tolerant*” (BDAG)
- Gracious or charitable is the idea.

4) Willing to yield,

- Reasonable, or quick to listen and concede personal ambitions.

5) Full of mercy,

- Not giving what is deserved.

3- The Defined Wisdom vv. 17-18 –

A. The definition of Divine Wisdom v. 17 –

6) Full of good fruits,

- The product of one's visible conduct.

7) Without partiality,

- Not being judgmental, or divisive. (sectarianism)

8) Without hypocrisy.

- To be genuine or sincere.
- Esse Quam Videri “to be, and not to seem”

3- The Defined Wisdom vv. 17-18 –

B. The demonstration of Divine Wisdom v. 17 –

- The intended harvest (fruit) is righteousness.
(see 1:20; cf, Gal. 6:7)
- Peacekeeper vs. peace maker
- Peacemakers are likened to a sower.
- Peacemakers, sowing peace, will harvest righteousness.

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 consider myself wise?
- Do my works back this up?
- Do I struggle with envy or selfishness?
- How does my intake of God’s word compete with my intake of worldly wisdom?
- Do any of the qualities in verse 17 resonate in my life?

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)
 - Study God’s word (“quick to hear”)
 - Filter yourself (“slow to speak”)



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