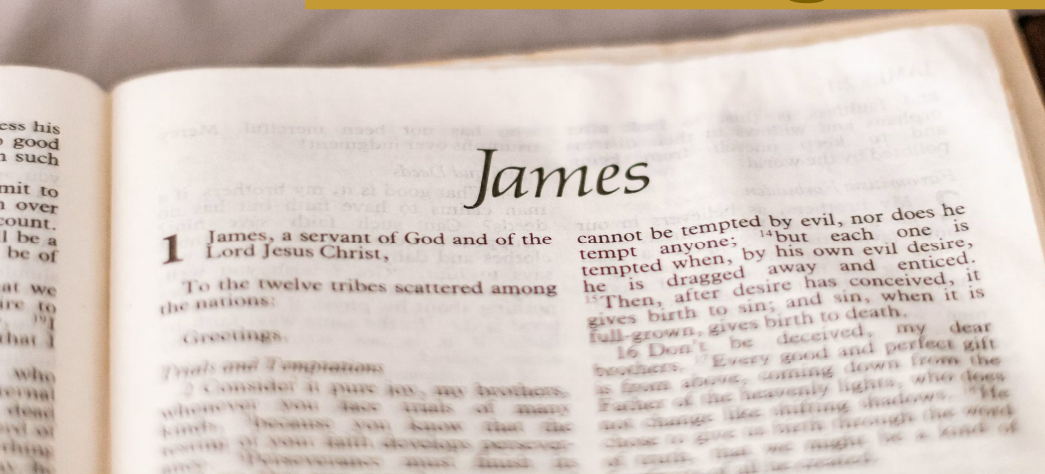




THE BOOK OF JAMES

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 4:1-6)

“The Flesh’s Fight for Control”

Outline:

1. The desire of the flesh v. 1
2. The works of the flesh vv. 2-3
3. The Enemy of the flesh vv. 4-6

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1. The desire of the flesh v. 1
2. The works of the flesh vv. 2-3
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1- The desire of the flesh v. 1 –

A. The question – v. 1a

➤ “From where”

1) “wars” (πόλεμοι)

- “A state of hostility/antagonism” BDAG
- A position of animosity.

2) “fights” (μάχαι)

- A battle fought without weapons”
- A practice of animosity.

1- The desire of the flesh v. 1 –

B. The goal – v. 1b

- “your pleasures” NASB (ἡδονῶν)
 - “A state or condition of experiencing pleasure for any reason.” BDAG
 - Cf. 3:14 “bitter envy and self-seeking”

1- The desire of the flesh v. 1 –

C. The conflict – v. 1c

- “that war”(στρατευομένων)
 - “war against the soul” 1 Pt. 2:11

- “in your members” (μέλεσιν)
 - Cf. Js. 3:5
 - Cf. Rom. 7:23

1- The desire of the flesh v. 1 –

Summary:

The flesh desires pleasure! The end justifies the means... Nothing is off limits to the flesh, which creates the conflict with the Spirit (which we will discuss...)

Outline:

1. The desire of the flesh v. 1
2. The works of the flesh vv. 2-3
3. The Enemy of the flesh vv. 4-6

2- The works of the flesh vv. 2-3 –

A. Six works listed – vv. 2-3

- 1) You Lust v. 2
- 2) You Murder v. 2
- 3) You Covet v. 2
- 4) You fight v. 2
- 5) You do not ask God v. 2
- 6) You ask in wickedness v. 3

Outline:

1. The desire of the flesh v. 1
2. The works of the flesh vv. 2-3
3. The Enemy of the flesh vv. 4-6

3- The Enemy of the flesh vv. 4-6 –

A. The Triune God! – vv. 4-6

1) God the Father v. 4

➤ The reality of spiritual adultery v. 4a

➤ The transitive property of equality v. 4b

- If $A=B$ and $B=C$, then $A=C$

- Friendship w/world = enmity w/God.

3- The Enemy of the flesh vv. 4-6 –

A. The Triune God! – vv. 4-6

1) God the Father v. 4

2) God the Spirit v. 5

➤ The truth of revelation v. 5a

- “do you think the Scripture says in vain”

➤ The revealed truth v. 5b

- “The Spirit Who dwells in us yearns jealously”
- Cf. Ex. 20:5; 34:14; Zech. 8:2

3- The Enemy of the flesh vv. 4-6 –

A. The Triune God! – vv. 4-6

- 1) God the Father v. 4
- 2) God the Spirit v. 5
- 3) God the Son v. 6
 - The provision of grace v. 6a

The Provision of Grace:

- Grace = undeserved favor.
- Grace is made perfect in weakness. (cf. 2 Cor. 12:9)
- The Flesh = weakness.
- “But He gives greater grace” (my translation) v. 6
- The basis of this grace is the work of Christ!
- Cf. Rom. 3:23-24

3- The Enemy of the flesh vv. 4-6 –

A. The Triune God! – vv. 4-6

1) God the Father v. 4

2) God the Spirit v. 5

3) God the Son v. 6

➤ The provision of grace v. 6a

➤ The reception of grace v. 6b

- “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

3- The Enemy of the flesh vv. 4-6 –

Summary:

The Triune God opposes the flesh, because the flesh produces spiritual adultery through fellowship which God is hostile towards.

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 hold animosity towards anyone?
- Do I pursue my own indulgences?
- Do I lust, murder, covet, fight?
- Do I ask God for things?
- When I do is it with wrong motives?
- Am I a spiritually adulterous?

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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