

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore BibleStudyDownloads.org

Faith is internal and unseen.



How will others know you are a Christian?

How will others know you are a Christian?



What are the characteristics of faith?

Background

Early Jewish believers were not living out their faith.





EPISTLE OF



Summary Statement Early Jewish believers in the Roman worldshul w the **5** ce ris the eeds in ma 'n **H**IV an SS

26





Authorship

James the son of Zebedee





Authorship

James the son of Alphaeus

James the father of Thaddeaus



"Then they scoffed, 'He's just a carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us.' They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him" (Mark 6:3 NLT).



Authorship

James the brother of Jesus



What would it have been like to grow up with a perfect older brother?

Who were the original readers of James?

Were they believers or not? How do you know?

JEWISH DIASPORA AT PENTECOST

MAP 85



Why did James write?

 To lead unbelievers to Christ
To give "tests of faith" so people could evaluate if they were genuine believers
To exhort true Christians to live up to the faith they professed

What are the characteristics of faith?

James Shows Ways Faith is Seen...²⁶⁷

Faith is Revealed through Works Because Faith...

Rejoices in Difficulty	Obeys the Word	Avoids Favor- itism	Produces Works	Speaks Wisely	Produces Humility	Triumphs	
1:1-18	1:19-27	2:1-13	2:14-26	3	4:1–5:6	5:7-20	
Salutation Trials Temptations	Listening Anger Obedience Speech Compassion Purity	Discrimination Materialism Egalitarianism	Meeting Needs Validation	Influence Untamable Use Wisdom	Conflict Judging Presumption	Suffering Prayer Confrontation	
Jerusalem							
			AD 44-47				

James 1

James Shows Ways Faith is Seen...²⁶⁷

Faith is Revealed through Works Because Faith...

Rejoices in Difficulty	Obeys the Word	Avoids Favor- itism	Produces Works	Speaks Wisely	Produces Humility	Triumphs	
1:1-18	1:19-27	2:1-13	2:14-26	3	4:1–5:6	5:7-20	
Salutation Trials Temptations	Listening Anger Obedience Speech Compassion Purity	Discrimination Materialism Egalitarianism	Meeting Needs Validation	Influence Untamable Use Wisdom	Conflict Judging Presumption	Suffering Prayer Confrontation	
Jerusalem							
AD 44-47							



James Shows Ways Faith is Seen...²⁶⁷

Faith is Revealed through Works Because Faith...

Rejoices in Difficulty	Obeys the Word	Avoids Favor- itism	Produces Works	Speaks Wisely	Produces Humility	Triumphs	
1:1-18	1:19-27	2:1-13	2:14-26	3	4:1–5:6	5:7-20	
Salutation Trials Temptations	Listening Anger Obedience Speech Compassion Purity	Discrimination Materialism Egalitarianism	Meeting Needs Validation	Influence Untamable Use Wisdom	Conflict Judging Presumption	Suffering Prayer Confrontation	
Jerusalem							
AD 44-47							

James 2



James Shows Ways Faith is Seen...²⁶⁷

Faith is Revealed through Works Because Faith...

Rejoices in Difficulty	Obeys the Word	Avoids Favor- itism	Produces Works	Speaks Wisely	Produces Humility	Triumphs	
1:1-18	1:19-27	2:1-13	2:14-26	3	4:1–5:6	5:7-20	
Salutation Trials Temptations	Listening Anger Obedience Speech Compassion Purity	Discrimination Materialism Egalitarianism	Meeting Needs Validation	Influence Untamable Use Wisdom	Conflict Judging Presumption	Suffering Prayer Confrontation	
Jerusalem							
AD 44-47							



"My brothers, as believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism."

WHY NOT FAVOR THE RICH?

Favoring the rich...1. Indicates impure motives (2-4)



What is favoritism?

"preferential treatment, especially when unjust or narrowly discriminating" (Funk & Wagnalls)

 to treat another person based upon his financial status and from an improper motive (James 2:4)

Favoring the rich...

Indicates impure motives (2-4) Insults the poor (5-6a)



Prasad India Malayalam

ദി ബൈസിക്കലി

No Pum Myanmar Burmese



Suresh Sri Lanka Tamil

<mark>திருமரையின்</mark>.

<u>, all'um</u>

Sokheang Cambodia Khmer

<mark>មុលដ្ឋានត្រឹះនៃព្រះតម្តីវ</mark>

Brian Mutai Kenya Swahili

81

14 KWA UJUMLA
Badamdorj Mongolia Mongolian

Библи. Үндсэндээ

Favoring the rich...

 Indicates impure motives (2-4)
 Insults the poor (5-6a)
 Indulges oppressors (6b-7)
 Ignores God's command to love others like ourselves (8-11)
 Incurs God's judgment (12-13)



James Shows Ways Faith is Seen...²⁶⁷

Faith is Revealed through Works Because Faith...

Rejoices in Difficulty	Obeys the Word	Avoids Favor- itism	Produces Works	Speaks Wisely	Produces Humility	Triumphs
1:1-18	1:19-27	2:1-13	2:14-26	3	4:1–5:6	5:7-20
Salutation Trials Temptations	Listening Anger Obedience Speech Compassion Purity	Discrimination Materialism Egalitarianism	Meeting Needs Validation	Influence Untamable Use Wisdom	Conflict Judging Presumption	Suffering Prayer Confrontation
Jerusalem						
AD 44-47						

The Apparent Contradiction Between Paul and James on Faith and Works

"For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law" (Romans 3:28) "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead" (James 2:17)

"...a man is not justified by observing the law but by faith in Jesus Christ..." (Galatians 2:16)

"You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone" (James 2:24)

Martin Luther and James

James "contradicted" Paul James is "a right strawy epistle" James shouldn't be in the Bible

"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

James 2:17

If we are justified by faith alone, then what is the role of works?

Paul addresses one > James answers a question: How is salvation experienced?

By faith alone (Romans 3:28) simple belief

different question: How is true and saving faith recognized?

By faith's fruits (James 2:14-26) Belief simply shown through works

Romans Versus James

Book	Romans	James					
Author	Paul	James					
Date	A.D. 56	A.D. 44-48					
Justification is a	technical term	non-technical term					
Justification is before	God (vertical)	Man (horizontal)					
The faith is	at beginning of salvation	after salvation					
Emphasis is upon	faith	works					

The Main Idea of James 2:14-26

Others see genuine faith in works!

James 3

James Shows Ways Faith is Seen...²⁶⁷

Faith is Revealed through Works Because Faith...

Rejoices in Difficulty	Obeys the Word	Avoids Favor- itism	Produces Works	Speaks Wisely	Produces Humility	Triumphs
1:1-18	1:19-27	2:1-13	2:14-26	3	4:1–5:6	5:7-20
Salutation Trials Temptations	Listening Anger Obedience Speech Compassion Purity	Discrimination Materialism Egalitarianism	Meeting Needs Validation	Influence Untamable Use Wisdom	Conflict Judging Presumption	Suffering Prayer Confrontation
Jerusalem						
AD 44-47						

Controlling the Tongue (3:1-18)

> How to have victory over one of our toughest enemies



True bulletin announcements...

- Don't let worry kill you—let the church help.
- Thursday night Potluck Supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- The ladies of our church have cast off clothing of every kind and they may be seen in the church basement Friday.

True bulletin announcements...

- The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Allen Belzer, the sin of Rev. and Mrs. Julius Belzer.
- This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.
- The bean supper will be held Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

3:1-6 Recognizes the influence of the tongue

"The tongue is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell" (3:6)

3:1-6 Recognizes the influence of the tongue3:7-8 Recognizes the tongue as untamable

3:1-6 3:7-8 3:9-12 Recognizes the influence of the tongue Recognizes the tongue as untamable Uses the tongue for good, not evil









3:1-6 3:7-8 3:9-12 3:13-18 Recognizes the influence of the tongue Recognizes the tongue as untamable Uses the tongue for good, not evil Produces wisdom for proper speech

Where does wisdom come from? How does James define wisdom?

There are two kinds of wisdom...

The Two Wisdoms	3:15-16	3:17-18		
Origin	not from above earthly unspiritual devilish	from above		
Characteristics	envy selfish ambition	pure peace loving considerate submissive merciful & good fruit impartial sincere		
Results	disorder every evil practice	harvest of righteousness		

James Shows Ways Faith is Seen...²⁶⁷

Faith is Revealed through Works Because Faith...

Rejoices in Difficulty	Obeys the Word	Avoids Favor- itism	Produces Works	Speaks Wisely	Produces Humility	Triumphs
1:1-18	1:19-27	2:1-13	2:14-26	3	4:1–5:6	5:7-20
Salutation Trials Temptations	Listening Anger Obedience Speech Compassion Purity	Discrimination Materialism Egalitarianism	Meeting Needs Validation	Influence Untamable Use Wisdom	Conflict Judging Presumption	Suffering Prayer Confrontation
Jerusalem						
AD 44-47						

James 4

"You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God."

James 4:4 (NIV)

Discernment v. Judgment

Commanded

Asks questions

Self-evaluation

Humble

Protects

Prohibited Accepts hearsay **Others-evaluation** Proud

Discredits



4:1-12 Summary

 Don't follow evil desires (1-10)
 Don't judge (11-12)

Happen in the Heartland

Planning at the

October 13-15, 2004 Indianapolis, Indiana How not to play God (James 4:13-17)

HOW TO PLAY GOD

WITH OTHERS (4:11-12) SLANDER THEM (11) JUDGE THEM (12)

 WITH OURSELVES (4:13-17)

Adapted from Charles Swindoll, James Bible Study Guide (Insight for Living, 1983), 70-71

Rules to Play God (4:13)

- 1. Choose your own time and schedule
- 2. Select your own location (the place you like)
- 3. Limit your stay to please yourself
- 4. Arrange your activities to please yourself
- 5. Predict your outcome and boast about it

Adapted from Charles Swindoll, James Bible Study Guide (Insight for Living, 1983), 71

The True God's Evaluation

 You don't know what will happen tomorrow (14a)
 You don't know if you'll have a long life (14b)
 You have no right to ignore God's will (15-17)

What plan do you need to submit to God?

Constant of the American

James 5
Warnings to the Wealthy (James 5:1-6)

Four types of people...

Spiritually poor & materially poor
Spiritually rich & materially rich
Spiritually rich & materially poor
Spiritually poor & materially rich

James addresses this last group.

To Bring Home

- 1. Are you among the rich or the poor of the world? How do you know this?
- What luxuries or conveniences could you share with others? Think of things you tend to waste or not put to greater use.
- 3. What should you do with the hardhitting words of James?

James Shows Ways Faith is Seen...²⁶⁷

Faith is Revealed through Works Because Faith...

Rejoices in Difficulty	Obeys the Word	Avoids Favor- itism	Produces Works	Speaks Wisely	Produces Humility	Triumphs			
1:1-18	1:19-27	2:1-13	2:14-26	3	4:1–5:6	5:7-20			
Salutation Trials Temptations	Listening Anger Obedience Speech Compassion Purity	Discrimination Materialism Egalitarianism	Meeting Needs Validation	Influence Untamable Use Wisdom	Conflict Judging Presumption	Suffering Prayer Confrontation			
Jerusalem									
AD 44-47									



How patient are you?

- > I get frustrated when using a slow computer
- When God doesn't answer my prayers, I give up praying that request
- > At the grocery I still use the express lane when I have more than 6 items
- I stand as close as I can to be first in doors on lifts, MRT trains, buses, etc.



How patient are you?

- I expect an answer to my emails within 24 hours
- > When calling someone, I hang up the phone after three rings
- I get angry when someone on the road cuts me off (when driving, in a taxi, or walking)
- > I get annoyed when forced to take selfevaluation tests (like this one)

How Can We Be Patient?

- Look to the Lord's return (5:7)
- Quit complaining to others (5:9)
- Stop making rash promises (5:12)
- Imitate examples of perseverance (5:7, 10, 11)

Divine Healing Today

What should we do when we need physical healing?

AOG Official Doctrine

"Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4,5; Matthew 8:16,17; James 5:14-16)"

> (The Assemblies of God Constitution in its Statement of Fundamental Truths, section 12, emphasis mine)

An Integral Part of the Gospel

Divine

http://ag.org/top/beliefs/position_papers/4184_healing.cfn

Pray, Pray, Pray

"Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is anyone sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him..." (James 5:13-14)

What Kind of Sickness?

Asthenei

<u>Weak Faith</u>

- General word for "to be weak"
- Used this way in many passages (e.g., Acts 20:35 "we must help the weak")
- James 5:15 better translated "make the weary person well" (cf. Heb. 12:3)

Physical Illness

- Contrasts with "in trouble" (5:13) by narrowing to physical issues
- Need for elders
- Use of oil
- "restore" and "raise up" are physical

What Kind of Anointing?

Mundane

- General word for "to rub with oil"
- Contrasts with a word *not* used, which is *chrio* ("ceremonially anoint")

Sacred

 Greek participle shows that prayer, not anointing, is the primary act

Does the Prayer Work?

"the prayer will restore... and the Lord will raise him up"

Yes

Prayer that God will heal emotional wounds is always successful

No

 God does not always heal physically when we pray

The Problem of Pain

 If God is good and all-powerful, why does he allow his creatures to suffer pain?



The Problem of Pain

"The point about reading C. S. Lowie is that he makes you sure, whatever you believe, that religion accepted or rejected means something extremely serious, demanding the entire energy of mind." —Harper's

What should you do?

James 5

What's the road to healing?



Our son Stephen suffered from Anklosing Spondylitis (ages 7-11)

JAMES 5:19-20

¹⁹My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, ²⁰remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Who are the wanderers?



 $\pi\lambda\alpha\nu\dot{\alpha}\omega$ lead astray, mislead, deceive; pass. stray away, go astray; be mistaken; be deceived or misled; wander about

This refers to Christians who reject the will of God by straying from the truth by their behavior in an active, not passive sense

Making this Text Real to Me

•Whom do I need to help restore?

How will I do it?

What are the characteristics of faith?



Main Idea of James

James Shows Ways Faith is Seen...²⁶⁷

Faith is Revealed through Works Because Faith...

Rejoices in Difficulty	Obeys the Word	Avoids Favor- itism	Produces Works	Speaks Wisely	Produces Humility	Triumphs			
1:1-18	1:19-27	2:1-13	2:14-26	3	4:1–5:6	5:7-20			
Salutation Trials Temptations	Listening Anger Obedience Speech Compassion Purity	Discrimination Materialism Egalitarianism	Meeting Needs Validation	Influence Untamable Use Wisdom	Conflict Judging Presumption	Suffering Prayer Confrontation			
Jerusalem									
AD 44-47									

Get this presentation and script for free!



Contribute Contact



Bible Study Downloads has thousands of PowerPoint® and Word files in 42 languages for free download here.

NT Preaching • BibleStudyDownloads.org