

An Introduction to James

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: James 1.
- B. One of Satan's foremost strategy is to counterfeit saving faith.
- C. Satan wants people to come to the wrong god in the wrong way.
- D. We are called to examine ourselves to see whether we have real saving faith. (2 Corinthians 13:5)
- E. True saving faith is verified by righteous behavior. (Matthew 3, John 15:8)
- F. True saving faith is not burdensome. It is joyful.
- G. James is written to identify those who have erred from truth and turn them back to forgiveness. It is about living faith.

II. The author. (Galatians 1)

- A. He introduces himself in an unassuming way.
- B. He understands that he is a sinner like everyone else.
- C. He understands himself as a servant of God and of Jesus.

III. The recipients: the dispersion.

- A. This refers to Jewish Christians scattered abroad. (Deuteronomy 12)
- B. The dispersion of the Jews turned out to be the greatest expedite for Gentile evangelism.

IV. James offers tests to see the validity of saving faith.

- A. The test of perseverance in suffering.
- B. The test of blame in temptation.
- C. The test of response to the Word.
- D. The test of impartial love.
- E. The test of righteous works.
- F. The test of the tongue.
- G. The test of worldly indulgence.

- H. The test of dependence.
- I. The test of no panic to life.
- J. The test of truthfulness.
- K. The test of prayerfulness.

Application Questions:

1. How can one make self-examination a regular part of his or her faith?

2. Which test stands out to you? How would your faith stand up to this test?

3. How is James a model in the way he addressed the “dispersion?” Explain.
