

JAMES

#1 Real Faith Works

James 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

Author? James, the half-brother of Jesus

Self-designation? “a servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ”

Recipients? Messianic Jews scattered abroad

Over-Arching Theme? REAL FAITH WORKS!

James 2:14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?... ¹⁸ I will show you my faith BY MY WORKS.”

Distinctives:

- Probably the earliest NT letter, likely written around AD 45
- Very Jewish
- Quite different from the other letters of the NT
- Notable influence from Jesus
- Many illustrations from nature
- Use of the term ‘gehenna’

Famous Verses:

- *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds 1:2*
- *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him 1:5*
- *Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger 1:19*
- *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only 1:22*
- *Faith without works is dead 2:26*
- *No man can tame the tongue 3:8*
- *You do not have, because you do not ask 4:2*
- *Resist the devil, and he will flee from you 4:7*
- *Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you 4:8*
- *So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin 4:17*
- *Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed 5:16*
- *The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much 5:16*

Basic Outline: REAL FAITH WORKS! by...

- Responding rightly to trials - 1:1-12
- Responding rightly to temptation - 1:13-18
- Not just hearing but obeying the Word - 1:19-25
- Caring for the marginalized and committing to stay pure – 1:26-27
- Treating others equally – 2:1-13
- Acts of compassion and obedience - 2:14-26
- Reining in the restless tongue – 3:1-12
- Living wisely – 3:13-18
- Choosing God’s friendship over the world’s – 4:1-10
- Refusing to tear down others – 4:11-12
- Trusting God’s sovereignty over the future – 4:13-17
- Fighting against injustice – 5:1-6
- Patiently remaining steadfast in the face of mistreatment – 5:7-12
- Praising and praying in all circumstances – 5:13-18
- Retrieving brothers and sisters who wandered away – 5:19-20

Pastoral Concerns:

1. Real FAITH!

2. Gospel COMMUNITY!

3. Patient ENDURANCE!

4. Progress TOWARD MATURITY!

5. Full DEVOTION TO GOD!

6. GO AFTER Wanderers!

James 5:19-20 My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, ²⁰ let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.