



Sermon Series: Faith Tested
Sermon Title: Preparing for the Journey
Scripture: James 1:1
Pastor Chris Fritz
Sunday, July 7, 2024

INTRODUCTION

James 1:3 - Theme Verse

Note: My faith needs to be tested!

James 4:4 - Chief Concern

“Basic to ALL that James says in his letter is his concern that his readers stop compromising with worldly values and behavior and give themselves WHOLLY to the Lord... Spiritual ‘wholeness’ is the central concern of the letter.” (Douglas J. Moo)

Note: This is a humbling book!

James 3:2

Ephesians 2:8-10 and James 2:24, 17-18

Paul: “How is salvation received?” Answer: BY FAITH!!!

James: “How is salvation verified/proven/demonstrated?” Answer: BY FRUIT!!!

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

I. THE BOOK OF JAMES: AUTHORSHIP... AUDIENCE... AUTHORITY

A. Authorship

“But if James, the Lord’s brother, wrote this letter, why does he not mention his special relationship to Jesus? Probably because being a brother of Jesus gave James NO AUTHORITY to admonish other Christians as he does in this letter. What qualified James to write such a letter was NOT his physical relationship to Jesus but his spiritual relationship.” (Douglas J. Moo)

Note: James GLADLY (eagerly!) takes upon himself the title (the position!) of servant!

Mark 10:43-45; Luke 17:10; Galatians 1:19; Galatians 2:9; John 7:5

“No second-born son or daughter can possibly fathom what it must have been like to suffer second child syndrome with an older brother who never sinned. But James did. Can you even imagine? Jesus always came when His mother called Him the first time. He always washed His hands properly before supper. He always did His chores quickly and with delight. He always obeyed. Then there was James, born with a sinful nature like the rest of us, living in the shadow of a big brother who was God in the flesh. Being far from perfect, younger brother James had a built-in problem right from the start.”

(Chuck Swindoll)

Mark 3:21; 1 Corinthians 15:7; Acts 12:17

B. Audience

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

Note: Most likely the book of James was written around the year 45 AD...
making it one of the earliest New Testament books!

Note: Because this letter was not written to one church in particular, it is rightly known as a general or universal letter. It was written not to one location but to many believers scattered abroad.

C. Authority

Note: There are about 50 imperative commands in just 5 chapters! This letter expresses the practical outworking of true faith and godly theology into everyday living!

“Again and again, the closest parallels to James’ wording are found in the teaching of Jesus - especially as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew. And the topics he addresses as well as the particular slant that he takes on these topics mimic Jesus’ own emphasis. The author of the letter seems to have been so soaked in the atmosphere and specifics of Jesus’ teaching that he can reflect them almost unconsciously.” (Douglas J. Moo)

***“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.” (James 1:1)***

Note: The word translated as “Greetings” is sometimes translated as “Rejoice!”