

James 1

Chapter 1 of 5 · 27 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Greeting

¹ James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

Testing and Temptation

² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

³ Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

⁴ But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

⁶ But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

⁷ For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

⁸ A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

⁹ Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:

¹⁰ But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away.

¹¹ For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.

12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Hearing and Doing the Word

19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Faith — πίστις (Pistis)

Faith, belief, trust

The Greek **pistis** (πίστις) denotes faith, belief, or trust—confidence in God's character and promises. It's both intellectual assent and relational trust, central to justification (Romans 5:1).

God — Θεός (Theos)

God

The Greek **Theos** (Θεός) refers to deity, used both for the one true God and false gods. Context determines whether it denotes the Father specifically or the Godhead generally.

Law — νόμος (Nomos)

Law

The Greek **nomos** (νόμος) denotes law—particularly the Mosaic law. While believers are not under law but under grace (Romans 6:14), Christ fulfilled the law (Matthew 5:17) and wrote it on believers' hearts (Hebrews 8:10).

Lord — Κύριος (Kurios)

Lord, Master

The Greek **Kurios** (Κύριος) means 'lord' or 'master,' used both for human masters and divinely for God the Father and Jesus Christ. Its application to Jesus affirms His deity, as it translates YHWH in the Septuagint.

Love — ἀγάπη (Agape)

Divine love

The Greek **agape** (ἀγάπη) denotes self-sacrificial, unconditional love—the highest form of love, characterizing God's nature (1 John 4:8) and the love Christians are called to demonstrate.

Save — σώζω (Sozo)

To save, deliver, heal

The Greek **sozo** (σώζω) means to save—deliverance from sin, death, and judgment. 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved' (Acts 16:31). The word also encompasses physical healing and spiritual wholeness.

Sin — ἁμαρτία (Hamartia)

Sin, missing the mark

The Greek **hamartia** (ἁμαρτία) means sin—missing the target of God's perfection. 'All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23), requiring Christ's atoning sacrifice.

Truth — ἀλήθεια (Aletheia)

Truth, reality

The Greek **aletheia** (ἀλήθεια) denotes truth or reality—that which corresponds to actuality. Jesus declared, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life' (John 14:6), embodying ultimate reality.

Word — λόγος (Logos)

Word, reason, message

The Greek **Logos** (Λόγος) means word, reason, or message—the rational principle underlying reality. John identifies Christ as the eternal Logos: 'In the beginning was the Word' (John 1:1).

Wrath — ὀργή (Orgē)

Wrath, anger

The Greek **orgē** (ὀργή) means wrath—settled, righteous anger against sin. Believers are 'saved from wrath through him' (Romans 5:9), as Christ bore God's wrath on the cross, satisfying divine justice.

CROSS REFERENCES

James 1:1

References Lord: Ezekiel 12:15. **References Jesus:** Titus 1:1; 1 Peter 1:1. **Parallel theme:** John 7:35; Acts 8:1; 15:23; 21:18; Galatians 2:9. **References God:** Deuteronomy 28:64; Acts 26:7

James 1:2 **Parallel theme:** James 1:12; Acts 5:41; Philippians 1:29; 2:17; Colossians 1:24; Hebrews 10:34; 2 Peter 2:9; Revelation 2:10

James 1:3

Parallel theme: Romans 2:7; 8:25; 8:28; 15:4; 2 Corinthians 4:17; Colossians 1:11; Hebrews 10:36; 12:1; 2 Peter 1:6. **Faith:** 1 Peter 1:7

James 1:4 **Parallel theme:** James 3:2; Psalms 37:7; 40:1; Habakkuk 2:3; Matthew 5:48; Luke 21:19; Galatians 6:9; 2 Timothy 3:17; Hebrews 13:21; 1 Peter 5:10

James 1:5

Parallel theme: James 3:17; 5:16; Exodus 31:6; 2 Chronicles 1:10; John 14:13; 15:7; 1 John 3:22. **References God:** Exodus 31:3; 1 Chronicles 22:12; John 4:10

James 1:6 **Faith:** Hebrews 10:23; 11:6. **Parallel theme:** Ephesians 4:14; 1 Timothy 2:8; Hebrews 13:9

James 1:7 **Parallel theme:** James 4:3; Proverbs 21:27; Isaiah 1:15. **References Lord:** Proverbs 15:8

James 1:8 **Parallel theme:** James 4:8; 1 Kings 18:21; 2 Kings 17:33; 17:41; Isaiah 29:13; Matthew 6:24; 2 Peter 2:14; 3:16

James 1:9 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 19:1; Luke 1:52; 2 Corinthians 6:10; Revelation 2:9

James 1:10 **Parallel theme:** Job 14:2; Psalms 103:15; Isaiah 40:6; Matthew 5:3; 6:30; 1 Corinthians 7:31; 1 Timothy 6:17; 1 Peter 1:24; 1 John 2:17. **Creation:** Isaiah 66:2

James 1:11 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 13:6; Mark 4:6

James 1:12 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 10:22; 1 Corinthians 9:25; 1 Peter 3:14; 5:4; 5:10; Revelation 2:10. **References Lord:** James 5:11. **Love:** James 2:5; Romans 8:28; 2 Timothy 4:8

James 1:13 **Parallel theme:** James 1:2; 1:12; Genesis 3:12; Isaiah 63:17

James 1:14 **Parallel theme:** Job 31:9; 31:27; Proverbs 4:23; Isaiah 44:20; Matthew 5:28; 15:18; Romans 7:11; 7:13; Ephesians 4:22; Hebrews 3:13

James 1:15 **Sin:** Psalms 7:14; Isaiah 59:4. **Parallel theme:** Genesis 2:17; 3:6; Job 15:35

James 1:16 **Love:** James 1:19; Philippians 2:12; Hebrews 13:1. **Parallel theme:** Matthew 22:29; Mark 12:24; 12:27; 1 Corinthians 6:9; Galatians 6:7; Colossians 2:4; 2:8

James 1:17

Parallel theme: Proverbs 2:6; Malachi 3:6; John 3:27; Hebrews 13:8. **Good:** James 3:17; Numbers 23:19; Psalms 84:11; Matthew 7:11. **Light:** John 8:12; 1 John 1:5

James 1:18 **Word:** 1 Peter 1:23. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 2:3; John 1:13; Ephesians 1:12; Hebrews 12:23; 1 Peter 1:3; 1 John 3:9; Revelation 14:4

James 1:19 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 10:19; 13:3; 16:32; 17:27; 18:13; 21:23. **Judgment:** Proverbs 14:29; 15:18; Ephesians 4:26; Colossians 3:8

James 1:20 **Judgment:** Ephesians 4:26

James 1:21 **Parallel theme:** James 4:8; Psalms 25:9; Ephesians 4:22; Hebrews 12:1; 1 Peter 2:1; 2:11. **Salvation:** Ephesians 1:13; Hebrews 2:3. **Word:** John 6:63; Hebrews 4:2

James 1:22 **Word:** Luke 11:28; Romans 2:13; Colossians 3:17; 1 John 2:3. **Parallel theme:** James 1:26; 4:17; Matthew 12:50; John 13:17; 1 John 3:7; Revelation 22:7

James 1:23 **Parallel theme:** Luke 6:7; 6:47. **Word:** Jeremiah 44:16

James 1:24

Parallel theme: Judges 8:18; Matthew 8:27; Luke 1:66; 7:39; 1 Thessalonians 1:5; 2 Peter 3:11

James 1:25 **Word:** James 2:12; Proverbs 14:15; Luke 11:28. **Parallel theme:** John 13:17; Romans 8:15; 11:22; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Galatians 5:1; 1 Timothy 4:16; 1 Peter 2:16

James 1:26 **Parallel theme:** James 1:22; Psalms 34:13; 141:3; Proverbs 10:19; 10:31; 19:1; Ephesians 4:29; 5:4; Colossians 4:6; 1 Peter 3:10

James 1:27

References God: James 4:4; Psalms 68:5; Matthew 5:8; Luke 1:6; Romans 12:2; 1 Timothy 5:4; 1 John 5:18. **Parallel theme:** Psalms 119:1; Isaiah 1:23; 1 Timothy 1:5

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