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James 1:1 NIV

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.

James 1:2 NIV

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,

James 1:3 NIV

because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

James 1:4 NIV

Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:5 NIV

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

James 1:6 NIV

But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

James 1:7 NIV

That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord;

James 1:8 NIV

he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

James 1:9 NIV

The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position.

James 1:10 NIV

But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower.

James 1:11 NIV

For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business.

James 1:12 NIV

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

James 1:13 NIV

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

James 1:14 NIV

but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

James 1:15 NIV

Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

James 1:16 NIV

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers.

James 1:17 NIV

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

James 1:18 NIV

He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

James 1:19 NIV

My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,

James 1:20 NIV

for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

James 1:21 NIV

Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

James 1:22 NIV

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James 1:23 NIV

Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror

James 1:24 NIV

and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

James 1:25

NIV

But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

James 1:26

NIV

If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.

James 1:27

NIV

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

James 2:1

NIV

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

James 2:2

NIV

Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in.

James 2:3

NIV

If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet,"

James 2:4

NIV

have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

James 2:5

NIV

Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

James 2:6

NIV

But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court?

James 2:7

NIV

Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?

James 2:8

NIV

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right.

James 2:9

NIV

But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

James 2:10

NIV

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

James 2:11

NIV

For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

James 2:12

NIV

Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom,

James 2:13

NIV

because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

James 2:14

NIV

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?

James 2:15

NIV

Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food.

James 2:16

NIV

If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?

James 2:17

NIV

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

James 2:18

NIV

But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

James 2:19

NIV

You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

James 2:20

NIV

You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?

James 2:21

NIV

Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?

James 2:22

NIV

You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.

James 2:23

NIV

And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.

James 2:24

NIV

You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.

James 2:25

NIV

In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?

James 2:26

NIV

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

James 3:1

NIV

Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

James 3:2

NIV

We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.

James 3:3

NIV

When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.

James 3:4

NIV

Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.

James 3:5

NIV

Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.

James 3:6

NIV

The tongue also 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.

James 3:7

NIV

All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man,

James 3:8 NIV

but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

James 3:9 NIV

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness.

James 3:10 NIV

Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.

James 3:11 NIV

Can both fresh water and salt[a] water flow from the same spring?

James 3:12 NIV

My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

James 3:13 NIV

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

James 3:14 NIV

But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.

James 3:15 NIV

Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil.

James 3:16 NIV

For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

James 3:17 NIV

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

James 3:18 NIV

Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

James 4:1 NIV

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?

James 4:2

NIV

You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God.

James 4:3

NIV

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

James 4:4

NIV

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 4:5

NIV

Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?

James 4:6

NIV

But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

James 4:7

NIV

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

James 4:8

NIV

Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

James 4:9

NIV

Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.

James 4:10

NIV

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

James 4:11

NIV

Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.

James 4:12

NIV

There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

James 4:13

NIV

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money."

James 4:14

NIV

Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

James 4:15

NIV

Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

James 4:16

NIV

As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil.

James 4:17

NIV

Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

James 5:1

NIV

Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you.

James 5:2

NIV

Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes.

James 5:3

NIV

Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.

James 5:4

NIV

Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.

James 5:5

NIV

You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.

James 5:6

NIV

You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you.

James 5:7

NIV

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains.

James 5:8

NIV

You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

James 5:9

NIV

Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

James 5:10

NIV

Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

James 5:11

NIV

As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

James 5:12

NIV

Above all, my brothers, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, or you will be condemned.

James 5:13

NIV

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise.

James 5:14

NIV

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.

James 5:15

NIV

And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

James 5:16

NIV

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

James 5:17

NIV

Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

James 5:18

NIV

Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

James 5:19

NIV

My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back,

James 5:20

NIV

remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.