

1 1 James, slave of God and the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the Diaspora.
Greetings:

2 Consider it all joy my brethren, when you go through manifold trials and temptations, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let patience have its perfect work, in order that you may be whole and complete, lacking in nothing. 5 But, if any of you has need of wisdom, ask for it from God, who gives to everyone liberally and without reviling, and it will be given to you. 6 But ask in faith, doubting nothing, for the one doubting is like a sea-wave driven and tossed about by the wind. 7 For that person must not think that 8 a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways, will receive anything from the Lord.

9 But let the downcast brother boast in his exaltation, 10 and the rich in his humbling, because, as a flower of a plant, he will fade away. 11 For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the plant, and the plant's flower falls down and the beauty of its face is destroyed; and just like this the rich will wither away while in his pursuits.

12 Happy is the man who is steadfast in trial because, after being shown to be worthy, he will receive the crown of Life which God promises to his loved ones. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God is not tempted by evil, and *he* tempts no one. 14 But each one is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desires; 15 afterwards desire conceives, giving birth to sin, and sin, when it is full grown, gives birth to death.

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. 17 Every good gift and perfect gift is from above; they come down from the Father of Lights, with whom there is no variation nor shadow from variation. 18 By his own will, he gave birth to us through the word of truth, in order that we would be the first fruit of his creatures.

19 Remember, my beloved brethren, let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger, 20 for a person's anger does not bring about the righteousness of God. 21 Therefore, put aside all filthiness and evil abundance **and in humility** receive the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 And be doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 Because if anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer, *he* is like a man observing his natural face in the mirror: 24 for he observes himself and goes away and immediately forgets what sort he was. 25 But the one who has looked into the perfect law, the law of freedom, and continues to examine it, becomes, not a hearer who forgets, but a doer of the work; this one will be blessed in his work.

26 If anyone supposes he is religious but does not bridle his tongue, then he is deceiving his heart, and his religion is useless. 27 Religion, pure and undefiled, before God the Father is this: to look after the orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

2 1 My brethren, as you hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of Glory, do not judge by outward appearances. 2 For **if/when** a man comes into your synagogue wearing a gold ring and dressed in splendid apparel, and also a poor man comes in wearing ragged clothing, 3 and you show more respect to the one wearing the splendid apparel and say, "Sit in the best seat here," but say to the poor person, "You stand there or sit under my footstool," 4 then are you not making a distinction in yourselves and becoming judges with evil **opinions/ reasonings**?

5 Listen my beloved brethren: did not God chose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs to the kingdom which he has promised to those who love him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are oppressing you, and are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? 7 Is it not they who are slandering the noble name which was invoked over you? 8 However, if you completely fulfill royal law, according to the scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," then you do well. 9 But if you judge by outward appearance, then you commit sin and are convicted by law as transgressors. 10 For whoever observes the whole law, but stumbles in just one part, becomes liable for all the law. 11 For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder;" if you do not commit adultery, but do kill, you have become a transgressor of law. 12 So speak and act as those who will be judged under a law of liberty. 13 For the merciless judgments are for those who did not show mercy; mercy **has more power than/ will triumph over** judgment.

14 What is the profit, my brethren, **if/when** someone says he has faith but does not have works? **That faith is not able to save him.** 15 **If/When** a brother or sister is naked and lacking in **food for each day** 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, warm yourself and be filled," but does not give them **the basic daily necessities**, what is the profit? 17 Thus faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

18 But some will say, "Some have faith, but I have works." Show me your faith without works, and I, by my works, will show you my faith. 19 You believe, "God is one." You do well; even the demons believe and tremble with fear. 20 Do you wish to know, O foolish person, that faith without works is useless? 21 Was not our father Abraham justified by works when he sacrificed his son Isaac upon the alter? 22 You see that faith was working with his works and faith was perfected by works, 23 and the scripture, which said, "Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for justification," was fulfilled, and he was called a friend of God. 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. 25 In the same way not also the prostitute Rahab justified by works when she received the messengers and then sent them out by a different road? 26 For, just as the body apart from the spirit is dead, even also faith without works is dead.

3 1 Many of you should not become teachers, my brethren, for we will receive greater judgment. 2 For we all stumble all the time. If any man does not stumble in his speech, he is a perfect man, being able to bridle even the whole body. 3 If we put bits in the mouths of horses for us to control them, then we can turn their whole body. 4 Look even at immense ships which are driven by strong winds, they are turned by a small rudder wherever the will of the helmsman desires; 5 in the same way the tongue is a small body part, but it makes great wild boasts.

Look at how a large forest is set ablaze by a small fire. 6 And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is an unjust system lying among our body parts; it stains the whole body, setting on fire the wheel of birth and being set on fire by Gehenna. 7 For all kinds of wild beasts and birds, and reptiles and sea creatures, can be tamed and have been tamed by humankind, 8 but no one is able to tame the tongue, an uncontrollable evil and full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we place a curse on people who are made in the likeness of God, 10 *out of the same mouth* comes a blessing and a curse. It is not necessary that this should be, my brethren. 11 Does a spring pour out of the same hole both sweet and bitter water? 12 My brethren, can a fig tree give olives, or a grape vine figs? No more than can salt water yield sweet.

13 Is there any one among you who is wise and intelligent? Let him show his works by his good life and wise humility. 14 But, if you have bitter jealousy and selfishness in your heart, do not boast against and lie to the truth. 15 That wisdom is not the wisdom that comes from above but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For, when there is jealousy and selfishness, there is disorder and every evil deed. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, then gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without favoritism and hypocrisy. 18 But the harvest of justification is sown in peace for the peace makers.

4 1 From where do wars and fighting among you come? Do they not come from your desires which are warring in your members? 2 You desire and you do not have, you kill and covet and yet you are not able to obtain, you fight and make war, you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive because you ask evilly, in order that you may waste it on your desires. 4 Adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world shows himself to be an enemy of God. 5 **Or do you think the scripture bluffingly says**, “He yearns jealously over the spirit which he has housed in us”? 6 But does not he give a greater grace? Because it says, “God opposes the arrogant, but gives grace to the humble.” 7 Therefore, submit to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double minded people! 9 Lament, mourn, and cry. Let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to dejection. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

11 Do not slander one another, brethren. The one who slanders his brother or judges his brother slanders law and the judges law. But if you are judging the law then you are not a doer of the law but a judge. 12 There is one law giver and judge who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you to be the judge of your neighbor?

13 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a city and work there a year, and we will go into business and make a profit.” 14 You do not even know what your life tomorrow will bring about! For your life is a vapor which appears for a little while then vanishes. 15 Instead you should say, “If the Lord is willing, then we will live and do this or that.” 16 But, at present, you are boasting in your groundless arrogance. All this kind of boasting is wicked. 17 So then, whoever knows to do good and does not do it, to them it is a sin.

5 1 Come now, you rich, cry out and wail for the miseries that are coming upon you. 2 Your wealth has rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver have tarnished and their tarnish will be evidence against you and eat your flesh. You have stored up treasure in the last days that is like fire. 4 Look the wages you defrauded from the laborers who mowed your field cry out, and the cries of the harvesters have gone into the ears of the Lord of Hosts. 5 You have lived in luxury and self-indulgence on the earth, you have fattened your hearts for the day of slaughter, 6 you have condemned, and you have killed the just. Will not God oppose you?

7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waiting for the precious fruit of the ground is patient over it until he receives the early and the late rain. 8 You also be patient, establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9 Do not grumble, brethren, against one another so that you may not be judged. Behold the judge is standing at the door. 10 Take as an example, brethren, the suffering and patience of the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 Behold, we call

blessed the ones who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, namely that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear: neither by heaven nor by earth or by any other oath. But let your "Yes" be yes and your "No" no, in order that you do not fall under judgment.

13 If anyone among you is suffering, let him pray. If anyone is happy, let him sing praises. 14 If any one among you is sick, let him call forward the elders of the synagogue to pray over him and to anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of the faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will raise him, and sins which he has committed will be forgiven. 16 Therefore freely confess your sins one to another and pray for one another so that you might be healed. The prayer of a just person is very effectual. 17 Elijah was a man just like us who prayed fervently that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again and heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its fruit.

19 My brethren, if any among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, know that the one who returns a sinner from his wandering way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.