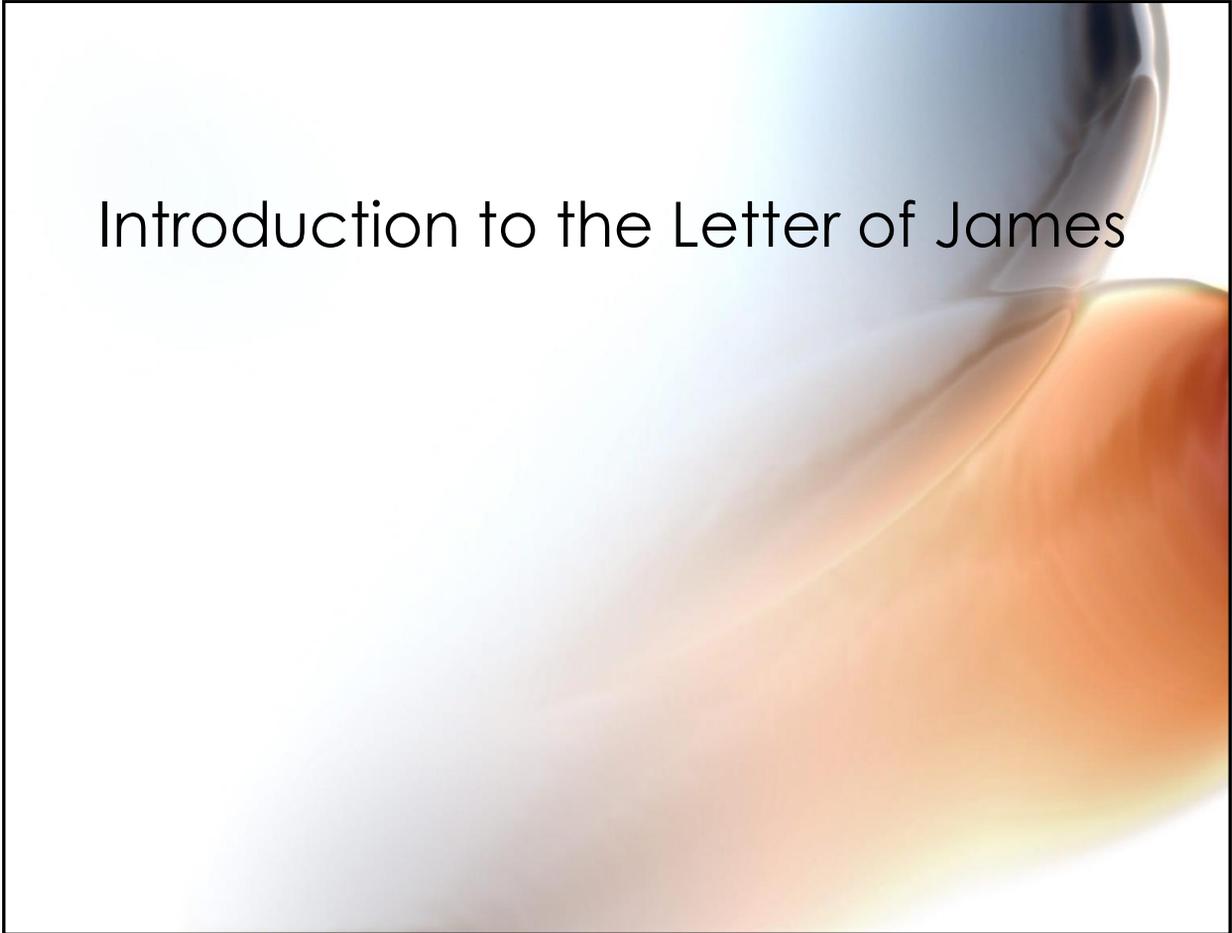


Faith in Action

The Foundation of Christianity



Introduction to the Letter of James

Introducing James

- ^{ESV} **James 1:1** James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.
- Keys
 - Identity of the author
 - Identity of the audience
 - Purpose for writing

Identity of the Author

- ^{ESV} **James 1:1** James, ... Greetings.
 - Which James?
 1. Son of Zebedee, brother of John
 - Not likely, killed by Herod in 44 AD (see Acts 12:2)
 2. Son of Alpheus, one of the twelve
 - Not likely, too obscure to have had authority
 3. Brother of Jesus
 - Most likely based on internal evidence and testimony of church history
 - Latest date of writing is 62 AD

Identity of the Audience

- ^{ESV} **James 1:1** James, ...To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.
- The Twelve Tribes = The True Israel, the Church.
 - ^{NIV} **Galatians 6:16** Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even to the Israel of God.
 - ^{NAS} **Romans 2:28** For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. ²⁹ But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.
 - ^{NAS} **1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Identity of the Audience

- ^{ESV} **James 1:1** James, ...To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.
- In the Dispersion = Primarily Jewish Christian scattered by persecution.
 - ^{NAS} **Acts 11:19** So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone.
 - ^{ESV} **1 Peter 1:1** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

Purpose for Writing

- ^{ESV} **James 1:1** James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, ... Greetings.
- Servant
 - ^{NAS} **Deuteronomy 34:5** So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.
 - ^{NAS} **Ezekiel 37:25** "And they shall live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons, and their sons' sons, forever; and David My servant shall be their prince forever.
 - ^{NIV} **Philippians 1:1** Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:
 - ^{NIV} **2 Peter 1:1** Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ ...

Purpose for Writing

- James gives a call to the church to actively live under the lordship of Jesus Christ.
 - *This imagery of "slave"/" lord" does two things as he opens his letter: It establishes his authority with his readers and introduces what will be a major underlying theme of the letter ... By describing himself as a "servant of God," James indicates he has accepted God's will as his own.*
 - Life in the Spirit NT Commentary
 - *James's call for consistent and uncompromising Christian living is much needed. Our churches are filled with believers who are only halfhearted in their faith and, as a result, leave large areas of their lives virtually untouched by genuine Christian values. Nor am I immune to such problems.*
 - Douglas J. Moo



James as the Follow-Up to *Knowing Christ*

Knowing Christ – A Summary

- ^{NAS} **John 20:30** Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.
- ^{NAS} **John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Questions Arising

- If Jesus is the Christ, and if he is the Son of God, and if we are saved by faith not works, then ...
 - *What does real faith look like?*
 - *Why do Christians face adversity in life?*
 - *Are peace, wealth, and health the distinguishing signs of God's blessings?*
 - *Do we really have to obey God?*
 - *Why do our prayers not always get answered?*
 - *How do we deal with suffering?*



The Foundation of Christianity

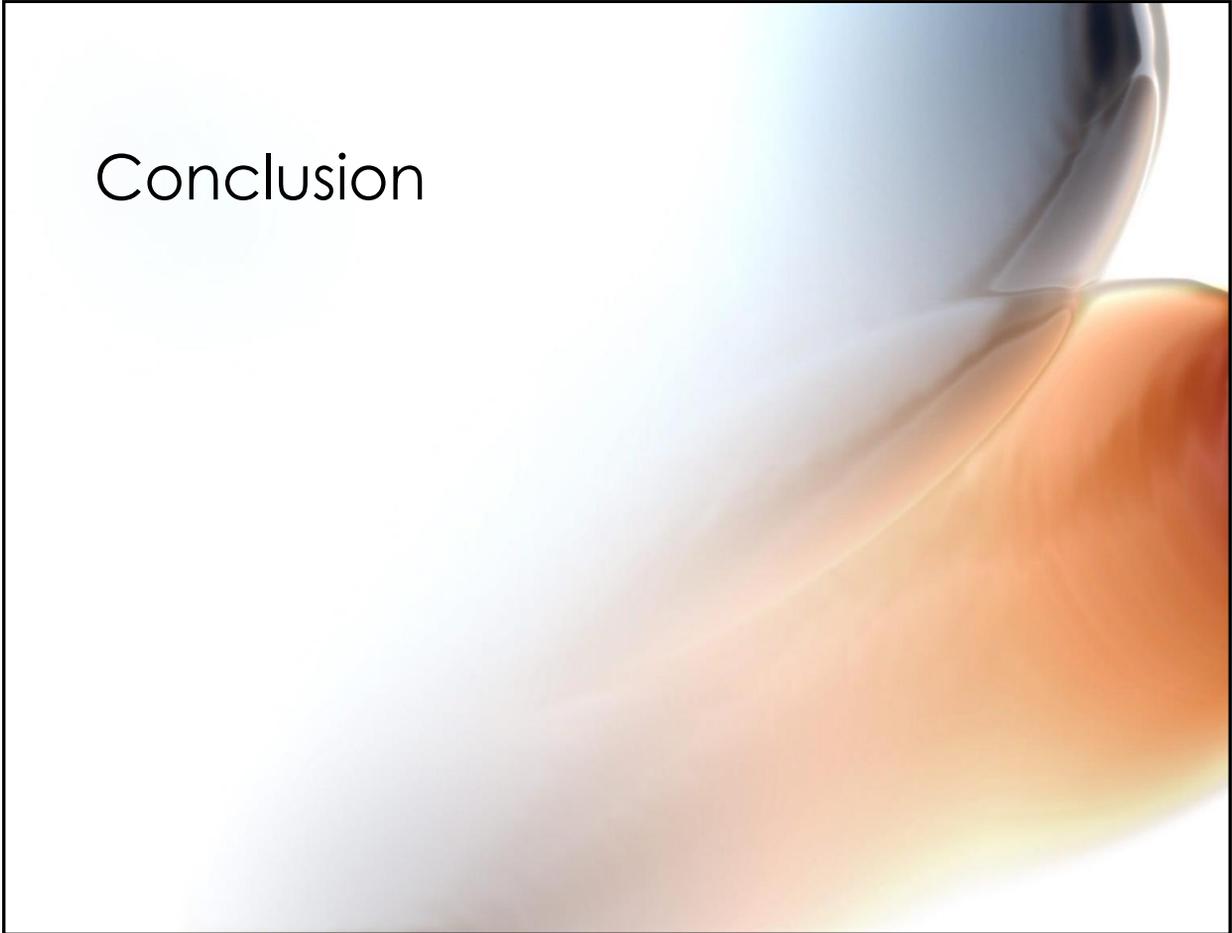
Salvation through Faith in Christ

- ^{NAS} **Romans 3:21** But now ... the righteousness of God has been manifested ... ²² even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; ... ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; ²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. ... ²⁶ for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus... ²⁸ For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.

Faith in Action

- ^{ESV} **2 Corinthians 5:7** for we walk by faith, not by sight.
- ^{NAS} **Galatians 2:20** "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.
- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 10:38** But My righteous one shall live by faith; And if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him.
- ^{NIV} **Hebrews 11:6** And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Conclusion



Alive in Christ

- ^{NAS} **Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, that no one should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

➤ *In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—
Here in the death of Christ I live.*

Alive by the Spirit

- ^{NAS} **1 John 3:23** And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. ²⁴ And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And we know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

➤ *Thank you, oh my father
For giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit
'Til the work on Earth is done*