James 1:1-8

Ken Chapman · James 1:1–8 · Series: **James Study**

INTRODUCTION

- James is one of my favorite books of the New Testament. It's very practical in the things that it has to say about our faith and the application and the living out of our faith.
- We're going to do a verse by verse study of the book of James.

1 Who Is James

Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3; Acts 1

- There's probably three possibilities, three realistic possibilities of James that we read about in the New Testament.
- But when we consider that he was killed by Herod in about 42 to 44 A.D., that might eliminate him from being the author of this book.
- This James in the book of James only addresses himself as a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- He was the physical brother of Jesus, our Lord. We remember that he wasn't a believer at first, but appears among the believers after the resurrection.
- James, the physical brother of our Lord, is the author of this epistle that bears his name.

2 Who Are the Twelve Tribes Scattered Abroad

James 2:1; Romans 2:28–29; Acts 8:4

- We know that, as we read through the book of James, that this epistle was written to Christians.
- Number one, that this letter is written to Hebrew Christians.
- Second possibility is it is referring to Christians scattered throughout the world, whether Jew or Gentile.
- Abraham's descendants are not just his physical lineage, but those who are his spiritual lineage through faith.
- They were scattered abroad because of the persecution that was facing Christians.

3 Count It All Joy in Various Trials

James 1:2–4; 1 Peter 4:12–13

- Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.
- The theme that Christians will face persecution or trials, and that we're to be joyous in the face of those.
- The only way our faith is truly made stronger is through adversity.

- The word patience here just means endurance under trials. The only way I can get better at enduring trials is by enduring trials.
- But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

4 If Any of You Lacks Wisdom, Ask of God

James 1:5

- If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.
- Maybe here specifically, he's talking about the wisdom to discern the benefit of trials, to understand through wisdom that patience only comes through trials.
- Ask him to give you this wisdom and this understanding to see the value of trials and to see the importance of enduring those trials.

5 Ask in Faith With No Doubting

James 1:6–8

- We serve a God who gives to all liberally. God is generous. God will answer our prayers.
- So if I'm to ask of God, I need to ask in faith. And he helps to define that faith when he says, with no doubting.
- When we face trials, when we face the uncertainties of life, there's something to be said for a stable mind.
- One requisite of receiving the answer to our prayers is faith, a trust in God that He will supply.
- If we're a double-minded, if we're a doubtful person, then we're unstable in every way of life.
- James tells us two ways. One is it's through faith, and it's through patient endurance of trials.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **And are you taking these to God, asking the one who gives liberally and without reproach to grant you the wisdom and the understanding to be able to endure these trials and to gain the patience that can be had in enduring these trials steadfastly?**

MY NOTES