

# BELIEVE IT.

## James: A Bible Study

*The key to good Bible study [and life] is establishing the right foundation & asking the right questions.*

### JAMES 101

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.  
James 1:1

#### WHO'S THE AUTHOR?

*James, a brother and a servant*

#### WHO'S THE AUDIENCE?

*The scattered tribes*

#### WHAT KIND OF LITERATURE IS THIS?

*General epistle*

JEWISH ■

WISDOM ■

*How to be blessed*

THEMATIC ■

#### WHAT'S UNIQUE ABOUT THE BOOK OF JAMES?

*It's unique in how it relates to Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount.*

#### WHAT'S JAMES ALL ABOUT?

*The central theme is about being perfect.*

This is NOT perfection that is a state of static completeness in which all the answers are correct. Rather it IS the perfection of being in harmony, having your inner life and your outer behavior, words, attitudes in sync. NOT being conflicted or torn in two.

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,  
<sup>3</sup> for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

<sup>4</sup> And let steadfastness have its full effect, (perfect work)

that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

<sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith,

with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For that person must

not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

<sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

James 1:2-8 (ESV)

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

Do what it says. <sup>23</sup> 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

<sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup> 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 1:22-25

### A LOOK IN THE MIRROR

*I'm conflicted because I have a foot in two worlds.*

*I'm angry because I'm conflicted.*

*I'm lonely because I'm selfish.*

*I'm sinful because God is NOT my satisfaction.*

*I'm confused because I look to everything but God for wisdom.*

*I'm poor because I'm confused about what it means to be rich.*

*I'm unstable because of the things I say.*

*I'm hypocritical because what I say doesn't match what I do.*

[Jesus said,] "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Matthew 5:48

### NEXT STEPS

*READ James with fresh eyes this week.*

*For further study:*

*40 Days In The Word workbook*

*Bible Study Methods* by Rick Warren (available at JW bookstore)

June 2/3, 2012