

Most every Christian knows what this book is about -- “faith without works is dead”

Written By Whom? Strongest case made for: James, brother of Jesus. Died in 62 AD

To Whom? The 12 tribes that are dispersed? A way of expressing the unity of the church with the chosen people of God. One line, one people, one savior, one faith, one God.

Unchanging. The fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham.

Setting? The church “struggling in the world” *is the background*. This is **not** a letter about persecution – though it acknowledges it.

\*The real concern is the world getting into the church!

***We have a distorted view of the world that revolves around us. We think it should operate according to and satisfy our desires.***

What is your World view?? A World View is your understanding of the meaning/purpose of the world/universe. It’s your view of how the world works – and how it is supposed to be.

**You have a World view whether or not you have ever thought about it! You have expectations about how things should be – and about what your life should be like.**

I. Let’s **REVIEW**. Who is “In Charge” so to speak? V.17,18

A. How life works according to me??

B. How life works according to God?

1. God is **Good!**

2. God is **Sovereign.**

3. God has a **Purpose** in the exercising of His sovereign will!

This is how life works *according to God!*

II. **Rejoice!** God is at Work. V.2-4

A. Life is a series of trials. There are all different types of “trials” - emotional, relational, physical, spiritual (Matt.4:24 – any and every type of sickness) You don’t plan on them – you encounter them “fall in them” (Luke 10)

B. “You Know” why these come.

1. You will find out if your faith is genuine or superficial.

2. It has a purpose; endurance, steadfastness!!

3. It is God’s way of bringing us to maturity. (1 Peter 4:12)

**Rejoice** in the path the God has chosen to make you perfect, complete, lacking nothing!

III. Make your **Request!** God Gives Wisdom to those who ask. **Be Wise!** V. 5-8

- A. Ask for wisdom!!! Ability to see life with God at work to bring to “perfection”. (Rom.8:32)
- B. Ask without doubting! Not double-souled or double-minded. (Matt.6:24) We must be committed to finding meaning in life on his terms – not ours.

IV. **Remember** -Trials can take many forms! v. 9-15

- A. Outward Trials –contrasting Poverty and wealth – Theme in James (1 Tim.6:9)
- B. Inward Trials – they come from my evil heart (peirasmos/peirazo & derivatives)
  - 1. Persevere for the Crown of Life! (1 Cor.9:25; 2 Tim.4:8; Rev. 2:10)
  - 2. This is His gift to those who love him!!!
- C. God does not tempt! Period.
- D. The spiral of desire - Desire conceived – gives birth to sin – that *Matures* – and itself gives birth *To Death!*

V. Without **REBIRTH** you will never make any sense of this life – or the world as it actually exists. (Col.3:3,4; 1 Peter 1:23)

You cannot think like the world anymore. Denies your rebirth. Denies your Father’s purposes. Denies you peace, hope, security in this life.

APPLICATION:

1. Pray for the gift of God’s Wisdom.
2. Learn to look not just for the “Lesson” that God is teaching you in any given struggle/trial. But look to His purpose!
3. Consider how you view the poor and the rich. Is your attitude consistent with the Word of God?
4. Take a Hard look at yourself. What are the dangerous “desires” of your heart that could lead to “death” and destruction?
5. Young People – You must get this! World around you is competing strenuously for your mind and heart. Your only protection is a Biblical view of God’s world, so that you know your place and calling.
6. Children – your test will come in obedience to parents. Your Trial will be to see if you can accept God’s plan as he carries it out through them.
7. Skeptic – find meaning, purpose, power, fulfillment, WISDOM and life – in the Rebirth found in and through Jesus, the risen savior!