

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

A PILGRIM'S WALK THROUGH

# THE NEW TESTAMENT

## JAMES

Reading: James 3:3-12

### Introduction

- James is found on the 4th shelf of our NT Bookcase.
- It is the 1st of 7 books referred too as the '*General Epistles*'

### 1 Who Was James?

- The half brother of the Lord Jesus [Matthew 13:55].
- A sceptic during Jesus' ministry.
- Converted after Jesus' resurrection. [1Corinthians 15:7]
- Became the '*bishop*' of the church in Jerusalem.
- Referred too as '*James the Just*'.
- Nicknamed '*Camel knees*'.
- Martyred in Jerusalem in AD62
- Opening verse reveals he was a '*humble man*'.

### 2 Things Unique To James

- Composed of 5 chapters and 108 verses.
- Over 20 allusions to the OT
- Over 20 allusions to the '*Sermon on the Mount*'.

- Over 30 references to nature. [1:6], [1:10-11], [3:5], [3:11], [3:12], [5:4].
- James uses the word '*brethren*' 15 times.
- Words '*faith*' used 12 times and '*works*' used 13 times.
- Key theme: The characteristics of true faith.

### **3 Do Paul And James Contradict Over The Role Of '*Faith*' and '*Works*'?**

- I suggest they compliment each other rather than contradict.
- Paul is dealing with the situation before salvation while James is speaking about the situation after salvation.
- Faith + anything added to it = nothing.
- Faith = salvation + works.
- Works are the evidence of authentic salvation.

### **4 The Hallmarks Of Living Faith**

- True faith endures trials. [1:2,12].
- True faith conquers anger. [1:19-20].
- True faith is obedient to the Word of God. [1:22-25].
- True faith produces separation from the world. [4:4].
- True faith harbours no prejudice and shows no favouritism in the church family.
- True faith learns to control the tongue [3:2-12].
- True faith resists the devil and submits to God. [4:6-8].
- True faith does not make an idol of riches. [5:1-6].
- True faith longs and prays for Christ's return. [5:7-9].
- True faith cultivates a prayer life. [5:13-18].
- True faith goes after the wanderer. [5:19-20].

**Go on-put your faith to James's test! Dare you!**

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