

Origin

Food4Life
Apr. 23, 2006

Face Your Fears and Live BACKGROUND

1. WHO WAS JAMES?

- ⇒ Most scholars and early church tradition agrees that James was *the brother of Jesus*. (Mark 6:3).
- ⇒ James was *the leader of the church in Jerusalem* (Acts 15).

2. WHEN WAS THE EPISTLE OF JAMES WRITTEN?

- ⇒ It originated before *A.D. 65* – this was when James was martyred.
- ⇒ In all likelihood the epistle was written between *A.D. 45* and *50*.

3. WHO WAS IT WRITTEN FOR?

- ⇒ To “the twelve tribes scattered among the nations” (1:1)
- ⇒ The “twelve tribes” refer to the *tribes of Israel*.
- ⇒ James was writing to a *Jewish audience*, who believed that Jesus was the Messiah – the Son of God.
- ⇒ “Scattered among the nations,” may refer to the Jewish believers who were forced to leave Jerusalem during the persecution which followed *Stephen’s* death. (Acts 7:54-8:1).

4. WHY WAS IT WRITTEN?

- ⇒ To *instruct* the believers how to live; food for life!

JAMES 1:2-8

pure joy

- ⇒ The words “pasan charan” – pure joy an expression of a *full* and *complete joy*.

Trials

- ⇒ “Trials” are things that put a person *to the test*.
- ⇒ Trials can happen on two fronts: on the *outside* and on the *inside*.
- ⇒ When we “face trials of many kinds” – the phrase is referring to falling into the midst of people, objects and *circumstances*.

develops perseverance

- ⇒ Trials *set the stage* for producing perseverance.
- ⇒ Perseverance is not a *passive* endurance – but a quality that enables us to stand on our feet in the storm.
- ⇒ Perseverance develops *spiritual stamina*.

complete

- ⇒ The word “complete means *mature* not perfection.
- ⇒ Perseverance in the midst of trials develops maturity of *character* and a *balance* of the graces and strengths for the Christian life.

ask God

- ⇒ God offers *help* – He offers wisdom!
- ⇒ The wisdom James is talking about is found in the *Book of Proverbs*.
- ⇒ It is God-given *understanding* which enables a person to avoid the path of wickedness and to live a life of righteousness

believe and not doubt

- ⇒ There is nothing that prevents God from giving wisdom – the barrier exists *in the person* – doubt!
- ⇒ To believe is to *be confident* the God will give what is requested.
- ⇒ The word “diakrinomenos” describes a person who is *divided* in his mind – indecisive
- ⇒ In other words he has no *stability* – “blown and tossed by the wind.”

all he does

- ⇒ The literal meaning double-minded man” is *double-souled*.
- ⇒ Not just when he prays, but *in all he does*.
- ⇒ When we have *the desire to believe*, when we set our heart to believe – God will respond.