

The General Epistle of James

**The General Epistle
of the
Apostle James**

A Precise Translation
of the Greek New Testament

*From the Stephens Text of 1550, the Same Text
From Which the King James Version was Translated*

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CHAPTER ONE

1. James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are in the dispersion: Greetings!
2. Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you are beset by various trials,
3. Knowing that the testing of your faith is producing endurance.
4. But let endurance have its perfect work, so that you may be perfect and complete, not lacking in anything.
5. However, if anyone is lacking wisdom, let him ask of God, Who gives to everyone freely and does not reproach *the one who asks*; and it shall be given to him.
6. But let him ask in faith, not doubting at all; because the one who is doubting is like a wave of the sea that is being driven by the wind and is being tossed *to and fro*.
7. Do not let that man expect that he will receive anything *for himself* from the Lord.
8. *He is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.
9. But let the brother who is in humble circumstances boast in his elevation,
10. And *let* the one who is rich *boast* in his humble condition; because as the flower of the field, he himself will pass away.
11. For as the sun rose with its burning heat and dried up the grass, and its flower fell off, and its beautiful appearance perished; in the same way also will the rich man be withering in his pursuits.
12. Blessed is the man who is enduring trials; because after having been proved, he will receive a crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.
13. Do not let anyone who *is* being tempted say, "I am being tempted by God"; because God is not

The General Epistle of James

tempted by evil, and He Himself tempts no one *with evil*.

14. But each one is tempted when he is being drawn away and is being enticed by his own lust.

15. Then after lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is completely finished, brings forth death.

16. Do not be deceiving yourselves, my beloved brethren.

17. Every good act of giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with Whom there is no variation, nor shadow of turning.

18. According to His own will He begat us by the Word of Truth, for us to be a kind of firstfruits of all His created *beings*.

19. For this reason, my beloved brethren, let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;

20. Because man's wrath does not work out God's righteousness.

21. Therefore, having rid yourselves of all filthiness and of all the prevailing evil, in meekness accept for yourselves the implanted Word, which is able to save your lives.

22. Then be doers of the Word, and not only hearers, deceiving your own selves;

23. Because if anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer, this one is like a man considering his natural face in a mirror;

24. For he looked at himself, but after going away, he immediately forgot what he was like.

25. But the one who has looked into the perfect law of freedom, and has continued in it, this one himself has not become a forgetful hearer, but is a doer of the work. This one shall be blessed in his actions.

26. If anyone among you considers himself to be religious, and is not controlling his tongue, but is deceiving his own heart, this one's religion is worthless!

27. Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their afflictions, and to keep oneself unspotted from the

The General Epistle of James

world.

CHAPTER TWO

1. My brethren, do not have the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with respect of persons.
2. Now then, if a man comes into your synagogue wearing gold rings *and dressed* in splendid apparel, and also a poor man in lowly apparel,
3. And you give preference to the one who is wearing the splendid apparel, and say to him, "Seat yourself here in the best place"; and *you* say to the poor man, "Stand over there," or, "Sit here under my footstool";
4. Then have you not passed judgment among yourselves, and have made yourselves judges--with evil opinions?
5. My beloved brethren, listen. Did not God choose for Himself the poor of this world, rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He Himself promised to those who love Him?
6. But you have dishonored the poor man! Are not the rich ones oppressing you, and are they not dragging you into the courts?
7. Are they not blaspheming the worthy name by which you are called?
8. If you are truly keeping the Royal Law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.
9. But if you have respect of persons, you are practicing sin, being convicted by the law as transgressors;
10. Because whoever shall keep the whole law, but sin in one aspect, he becomes guilty of all.
11. For He Who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not commit murder." Now if you are not committing adultery, but you commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.
12. In this manner speak and in this manner behave:

The General Epistle of James

as those who are about to be judged by the law of freedom.

13. For the one who dealt without mercy will be judged without mercy. But mercy triumphs over judgment.

14. My brethren, what good does it do, if anyone says *that* he has faith, and does not have works? Is faith able to save him?

15. Now then, if there be a brother or sister who is naked and destitute of daily food,

16. And anyone of you says to them, "Go in peace; be warmed and be filled," and does not give to them the necessary things for the body, what good does it do?

17. In exactly the same way also, faith, if it does not have works, is dead, *being* by itself.

18. But someone is going to say, "You have faith, and I have works." *My answer is:* You prove your faith to me through your works, and I will prove my faith to you through my works.

19. Do you believe that God is one? You do well *to believe this*. Even the demons believe--and tremble *in fear*.

20. But are you willing to understand, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

21. Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac, his own son, upon the altar?

22. Do you not see that faith was working together with his works, and by works *his* faith was perfected?

23. And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Now Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him for righteousness," and he was called a friend of God.

24. You see, then, that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

25. Now in the same manner also, was not Rahab the harlot justified by works when, after having received the messengers, she sent them out a different way?

26. For as the body without the spirit is dead, in the

The General Epistle of James

same way also, faith without works is dead.

CHAPTER THREE

1. My brethren, do not many of you become teachers, knowing that we will receive more stringent judgment;
2. Because we are frequently offending, every one of us. If anyone is not offending in what he says, this one is a perfect man and is able also to hold in check the whole body.
3. Remember, we put bits into horse's mouths in order that they may obey us, and we direct their entire bodies.
4. Consider also *that* the ships, being so large, and being driven by strong winds, are turned about by a very small rudder, wherever the will of the one who is steering may decide.
5. In the same way also, the tongue is a little member, but it boasts great things. Consider how large a forest a little fire sets ablaze;
6. And the tongue is a fire, the world of unrighteousness. In exactly the same way, the tongue is set among our members--*the one member that is* defiling the whole body, and is setting on fire the course of life, and is being set on fire by Gehenna.
7. Now then, every species of animals and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind.
8. But the tongue no human being is able to tame; it is an unrestrainable evil, full of death-dealing poison.
9. With it we bless God the Father, and with it we curse people who have been made in the likeness of God.
10. From the same mouth is coming out blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so!
11. Does a fountain pour out of the same opening

The General Epistle of James

sweet *water* and bitter *water*?

12. My brethren, can a fig tree produce olives, or a vine figs? In exactly the same way, no fountain can produce salt water and fresh *water*.

13. Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him demonstrate his works through good conduct in *the* meekness of wisdom.

14. But if you have bitter envying and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be boasting and lying against the Truth.

15. This wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, psychic *and* demonic;

16. Because where bitter envying and selfish ambition *are*, there is dissension and every evil thing.

17. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceful, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and without hypocrisy.

18. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who are making peace.

CHAPTER FOUR

1. From where *come* quarrels and fights among you? *Is it* not mainly from your own lusts *that are* warring within your members?

2. You lust, and have not; you kill, and are jealous, and are not able to obtain; you fight and quarrel, but still you do not have, because you do not ask!

3. Then you ask, and you do not receive, because you ask with evil motives, that you may consume it on your own lusts.

4. You adulterers and adulteresses, don't you know that the friendship of the world is *at* enmity with God? Therefore, whoever desires to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

5. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The spirit that dwells in us is lusting with envy"?

6. But He gives greater grace. This is the reason it says, "God sets Himself against the proud, but He gives grace to the humble."

The General Epistle of James

7. Therefore, subject yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
8. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded!
9. Be grieved and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into grieving, and your joy into gloominess.
10. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.
11. Brethren, do not be talking against one another. The one who is talking against a brother, and is judging his brother, is speaking against the law, and is judging the law. But if you are judging the law, you are not a doer of the law; rather, *you are* a judge.
12. *But* there is *only* one Lawgiver, Who has power to save and to destroy. Who are you, whoever is judging another?
13. Now listen, those of you who are saying, "Today and tomorrow we will go into such a city, and *we* will spend a year, and we will conduct business and make a profit."
14. You do not even know what will happen tomorrow! For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little while, and then it disappears.
15. Instead, your sayings *ought to be*, "If the Lord wills, we will live, and we will do this or that."
16. But now you are boasting in your own arrogance. All such boasting is evil.
17. Therefore, to the one who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

CHAPTER FIVE

1. Come now, you rich men, weep! Howl over the miseries that are coming upon you!
2. Your riches have rotted, and your garments have become moth-eaten.
3. Your gold and your silver have been eaten away,

The General Epistle of James

and their corrosion will be a testimony against you, and will consume your flesh like fire. You hoarded wealth for the last days.

4. Listen! The wages of the workmen who harvested your fields, which have been withheld by you, are crying out; and the cries of those who have reaped have entered into the ears of the Lord of hosts.

5. You lived in luxury upon the earth, and *you* lived in self-gratification; you nourished your hearts as in the day of slaughter.

6. You condemned *and* you killed the righteous, *and* he does not resist you.

7. Therefore, brethren, be patient until the coming of the Lord. Consider the husbandman: *he himself* waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient for it, until it has received *the* former and latter rains.

8. You be patient also. Strengthen your hearts, because the coming of the Lord has drawn near.

9. Do not be complaining against one another, brethren, so that you may not be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

10. My brethren, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of endurance *in* evil afflictions, and of steadfastness.

11. Behold, we call those blessed who are enduring. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the end result of *serving* the Lord, that the Lord is very compassionate and full of tender mercies.

12. But above all things, my brethren, do not swear, neither by heaven, nor *by* the earth, nor *by* any other oath; but let your yes be yes, and let your no be no, so that you do not fall into hypocrisy.

13. Is anyone suffering hardship among you? Let him pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing praise!

14. Is anyone sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, having anointed him with oil in the name of the Lord.

15. And the prayer of faith will save the sick one,

The General Epistle of James

and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

16. Confess your faults to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The supplication of a righteous man prevails much, being made effective.

17. Elijah was a man of emotions like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain upon the earth for three years and six months.

18. And again he prayed, and the heaven gave rain, and caused the earth to sprout its fruit.

19. Brethren, if anyone among you strays from the Truth, and *if* anyone brings him back,

20. Let him know that he who brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.

Epistle of James.