

THE BOOK OF JAMES:  
*Perseverance through trials  
always prevails*

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## ABOUT THE BOOK OF JAMES

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- 1<sup>st</sup> book written in the new testament around 45 A.D.
- It emphasizes that we are justified by faith
- It teaches practical Christian lifestyles very relevant to today's world.



# WHO WAS JAMES?

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- One of Jesus' four half brothers (Mark 6:3)
- Not a believer in him during his public ministry. He only began to believe after his resurrection (John 7:1-5 and 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:7)
- Became one of the key leaders in the first Jerusalem church and the leader of the Jerusalem council (Acts 15: 6-21)
- Called James the Just
- He wrote with the authority of one who had personally seen the resurrected Christ (1 Corinthians 15:7)
- He was among those who were awaiting the Holy Spirit to the day of pentecost (Act 1:14)
- Paul calls him a pillar of the church
- Died around 62 A.D.

# JAMES CHAPTER 1

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- James is writing to Jewish Christians from the first Church of Jerusalem (12 tribes)
- Chapter begins with greeting and humility
- 12 tribes had been rejected and persecuted by his own people
- The faith of the Jewish Christians is being tested but James encourages them
- It is through a test that Christians learn to stand firm against pressures



# MORE ABOUT CHAPTER 1

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- The word perfect appears 7 times in this book and it means to be mature.
- The full mature Christian lacks nothing
- James 1: 4-6 "ask in faith".
  - Faith is believing that God will do whatever he said he will do.
- In Mark 11: 23-24, Jesus makes it clear that if believers sincerely trust in God then they will see his power at work.
- Trials make all believers equal by keeping them from becoming preoccupied with earthly think.
- Believers who successfully endure trials are truly happy