

The book of James was written by the half-brother of Jesus, and is one of the first books of the New Testament. At first, James did not accept Jesus as the Son of God, as seen in John 7:5, but he became a strong believer in who Jesus was, as well as, a pillar in the church. This book is not written to any one person, but it was to be circulated around to all believers within the early church. James only has five chapters, but is full of guidelines we need to look at in our world today. One of the first things he wrote about is that we are going to face trials, but when we do, we need to have joy.

James tells us we need to be careful of how we feel about ourselves and others; we should not be double-minded. He lets us know that we need to be slow to speak, but quick to listen, and then do what the Word says. He also tells us that we should not show favoritism, but show respect to all, and to love our neighbor.

Next, James writes about faith and works. Works alone cannot save you, and if we have faith and do nothing, it is dead. So, if we have faith, it will be shown by our works.

One of the biggest challenges that James presents is to tame one of the smallest parts of our body, the tongue. Can we praise God with our tongue, and then use it to curse someone? This shouldn't happen, just as we can't have a fig tree bear olives. Then James writes about one of the big problems that we, and even the church have, which causes fights and quarrels. It is our desires and greed that is in us. We covet, but we cannot have. We lust after worldly things, and when we do that, we become enemies of God. James tells us to resist the devil and he will flee from us.

James goes on to tell us to be patient for the Lord's coming, and that we should not grumble against each other because we are going to be judged. We also need to try and bring someone back that has wandered from the faith.

Regardless of our age or our life situation, we can all learn Godly wisdom and truth from this little book of the New Testament.