



## Outline of James by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

### **James = Test of Faith**

### **GOD IS PRACTICAL BLUEPRINT FOR REDEMPTION**

#### **I. Test of Commitment 1:1 – 21**

##### **A. To the "Scattered" 1:1-4**

###### **1. By prosecution 1:1**

**Cf Acts 6:7 – 8:4**

###### **2. By persecution 1:2 - 4**

###### **a. "various"**

###### **b. "trials" (Greek "proving") 1:2, 12; (Cf 1 Corinthians 10:13; 1 Peter 4:12; Luke 8:13; Matthew 6:13; Luke 22:28; 1 Peter 1:6)**

###### **c. "testing" 1 Peter 1:7**

###### **d. "endurance" (Greek "steadfastness") 1:3-4; 5:11; (Cf Hebrews 12:1; Luke 8:15; Romans 5:3-4; 15:4; 1 Timothy 6:11)**

##### **B. To The Shaky 1:5-21**

###### **1. Ask God for help**

###### **a. without doubt 1:5-8**

###### **b. without trust in false things 1:9-11**

###### **2. Trust God for reward 1:12-20**

###### **a. "endures" (Greek "calmly bear") 1:12; (1 Peter 2:20; Hebrews 12:2-7; 1 Corinthians 13:7; 2 Timothy 2:10; Hebrews 10:32)**

###### **b. God NEVER tries to "break us" 1:13**

###### **1) "tempted" (Greek "solicit sin") 1:13-15; (Galatians 6:1; Matthew 4:1,3; 1 Corinthians 7:5; 1 Thessalonians 3:5)**

###### **2) personal response, NOT Divine act, causes sin 1:14-15**

###### **Cf Genesis 3:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:12-14; 2 Corinthians 11:3-4**

###### **3) LET NO ONE TEACH OTHERWISE! 1:16**

###### **c. God ALWAYS is the source of good gifts 1:17**

###### **d. God ALWAYS blesses His select ones 1:18**

###### **e. ALWAYS follow God's rules to be righteous 1:19-21**

#### **II. Test of Conviction 1:22 – 2:26**

##### **A. Hearers AND Doers 1:22-27**

###### **1. Church attendance with no changes is forgetful religion 1:22-25**

###### **2. Religion without daily practice is "useless" religion 1:26-27**

##### **B. Treat All Equally 2:1-13**

1. "Partiality" (**Greek "respect of persons"**) **2:1**; (**Romans 2:11**;  
**Ephesians 6:9**; **Colossians 3:25**)
2. Dishonoring the poor for the rich in worship is no good **2:1-7**
3. Church attendance with prejudice violates all God's Law **2:8-11**
4. Merciful Christians will receive mercy from God **2:12-13**

### C. Faith Only Is DEAD **2:14-26**

1. What good deed does "faith without works" have? **2:14-17**
2. How can "faith without works" be demonstrated? **2:18-20**
3. The Old Testament never saw God rewarding "faith w/o works"
  - a. Abraham's faith was "perfected" when he "offered Isaac his son on the altar" **2:21-24**; **Genesis 22:1-18**; **Hebrews 11:17-19**
    - 1) faith's works are what God commands **2:21-22**
    - 2) God "accounted" Abraham's faith WHEN IT WORKED! **2:23**  
**Cf Genesis 15:6**
  - b. "Likewise" Rahab was "justified by works" of protecting God's "messengers" **2:25** **Cf Joshua 2**; **Hebrews 11:31**
4. Physical death, itself, represents "faith without works" **2:26**

## III. Test of Conversation **3:1 - 4:17**

### A. Tongue "Twisting" **3:1 - 12**

1. Avoid the "everyone's-entitled-to-express-their-own-opinion" doctrine **3:1**
2. Perfect speech shows perfection **3:2**
  - a. all sin **1:26**; **2:10**; **I John 1:5-2:2**
  - b. "perfect" (**Greek "finished, complete, mature"**) **3:2**; **1:4, 17, 25**;  
(**Hebrews 5:14**; **9:11**; **I John 4:18**; **I Corinthians 2:6**; **13:10**;  
**I Corinthians 14:20**; **Matthew 5:48**; **Philippians 3:15**)
  - c. dangers of the uncontrolled "tongue" **3:3-12**
    - 1) **untrained** as a wild horse **3:3**
    - 2) **un-aimed** as a rudderless ship **3:4-5a**
    - 3) **inflamed** as wildfires **3:5b-6**
    - 4) **untamed** unlike God's creatures **3:7-8a**
    - 5) **forked tongue shows split heart 3:8b**; **Matthew 12:33-37**
      - a) bless God and curse men **3:9-10**
      - b) springs, trees, vines show consistency **3:11-12**

### B. Tongue-"Tie-ers" **3:13-4:17**

1. Which "wisdom" shows?
  - a. Earthly wisdom has: **3:14-16**
    - 1) "bitter envy"
    - 2) "self-seeking"
    - 3) "confusion"
    - 4) "every evil thing"
    - 5) and it's nature is:
      - a) "sensual"
      - b) "demonic"
  - b. Wisdom from above is: **3:13, 17**
    - 1) "pure"
    - 2) "peaceable"
    - 3) "gentle"
    - 4) "willing to yield"

- 5) "full of mercy and good fruits"
- 6) "without partiality"
- 7) "without hypocrisy"
- c. The proof is seen by actions **3:18**
- 2. Whose allegiance is evident? **4:1-12**
  - a. savagery doesn't satisfy **4:1-6**
    - 1) warring is man-made **4:1-3**
    - 2) warning is God-given **4:4-5**
      - a) wasted Scripture if unheeded **4:5** **Cf Romans 8:5-9;**  
**Galatians 5:16-17**
      - b) certain condemnation if ignored **4:6** **Cf Proverbs 3:34;**  
**I Peter 5:5**
  - b. submission to God saves **4:7-12**
    - 1) God can be approached, devil can be rejected **4:7-8**
    - 2) people can change **4:9-10**
    - 3) "speak evil" (**Greek "slander, defame"**) **4:11a**; (**I Peter 2:12;**  
**I Peter 3:16**)
    - 4) "judging" brethren is not the same as obeying God **4:11b**
    - 5) "Who are you?" **4:12** **Cf Romans 9:20**
- 3. Whose plan works without God? **4:13-17** **Cf Luke 12:13-34**
  - a. uncertainty of business **4:13-14a**
  - b. brevity of life **4:14b**
  - c. boasting (emptiness) without God **4:15-17**

#### **IV. Test of Contentment 5:1 – 20**

##### **A. God's Destruction Was Coming To Jews In Jerusalem 5:1-7**

##### **B. Christians Must "Be Patient" 5:8-12**

- 1. "patience" (**Greek "brave, not losing heart"**) **5:7-8**; (**Hebrews 6:13-15;**  
**I Corinthians 13:4; I Thessalonians 5:14; 2 Peter 3:9**)  
(**Greek "perseverance"**) **5:10**; (**2 Timothy 3:10-11; Hebrews 6:11-12**)
- 2. Don't rush to judgment of brethren, or to swearing **5:9, 12**

##### **C. Appropriate Christian responses: 5:13-20**

- 1. To "highs" and "lows" in life **5:13-16**
- 2. To pray like Elijah **5:17-18** **Cf I Kings 17:1-18:46**
- 3. To forgive like God **5:19-20**

## James' Jewels:

- The date, because **James** is addressed to Jewish Christians who have been scattered (**Cf Acts 7-9; 12:1**), is after **Acts 7-8**. Because it contains more quotes and references to the Sermon on the Mount than any other New Testament book, but found no need to explain Jesus' life and work on earth, it seems evident that the details were still fresh in the readers' minds. It would appear, thus, that this was the first book of the New Testament written, and that it was sent first to the Jews primarily, if not exclusively (**Cf Acts 2:1,5,22,36-39; 3:25-26; 11:19**). It may have been sent out from Jerusalem before Paul was sent to Gentiles (**Cf Acts 9:15-18; 14:27-15:3, 12; Romans 3:29; 9:24**).

- Allusions to the Sermon on the Mount may be seen in the following:

**James 1:2 (Matthew 5:10-12); 1:4 (Matthew 5:48);**  
**1:5; 5:15 (Matthew 7:7-12); 1:9 (Matthew 5:3);**  
**1:20 (Matthew 5:22); 2:13 (Matthew 5:7; 6:14-15);**  
**2:14-16 (Matthew 7:21-23); 2:17-18 (Matthew 5:9);**  
**4:4 (Matthew 6:24); 4:10 (Matthew 5:3, 4);**  
**4:11 (Matthew 7:1-2); 5:2 (Matthew 6:19);**  
**5:10 (Matthew 5:12); 5:12 (Matthew 5:33-37).**

- This James would be "the Lord's brother" (**Galatians 1:19**) who stepped into a prominent role in the Jerusalem church following the death of "James the brother of John" (**Acts 12:1-2; Mark 3:17**). **Cf Acts 12:17; 15:13; 21:18; James 1:1**. This would account for this letter being written with no other identification to the Jewish Christians than "James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ" (**James 1:1**).
- Hence, also, points are proven by many references to Jewish Scriptures:

<b>James 1:10</b>	<b>Isaiah 11:6</b>
<b>1:19</b>	<b>Proverbs 17:27; Ecclesiastes 5:2</b>
<b>2:1</b>	<b>Leviticus 19:15; Proverbs 24:23</b>
<b>2:8</b>	<b>Leviticus 19:18</b>
<b>2:11</b>	<b>Exodus 20:13-15; Deuteronomy 5:17</b>
<b>2:21</b>	<b>Genesis 22:2, 9</b>
<b>2:23</b>	<b>Genesis 15:6</b>
<b>2:25</b>	<b>Joshua 2:1; 6:17, 23</b>
<b>3:9</b>	<b>Genesis 1:26</b>
<b>4:6</b>	<b>Proverbs 3:34</b>
<b>5:4</b>	<b>Deuteronomy 24:15, 17; Malachi 3:5</b>
<b>5:5</b>	<b>Jeremiah 12:3</b>
<b>5:7</b>	<b>Deuteronomy 11:14; Jeremiah 5:24;</b> <b>Joel 2:23; Zechariah 10:1</b>
<b>5:11</b>	<b>Job 1:21, 22; 43:1-17</b>
<b>5:17, 18</b>	<b>I Kings 17:1; 18:41</b>
<b>5:20</b>	<b>Proverbs 10:12</b>