

Book of James Introduction

Author: Several James mentioned in the New Testament. A form of the OT name, Jacob. Most believe that the author was James, younger half brother of Jesus. Matt 13: 55-56, Mark 6: 3; John 7:1-5; Acts 1:14; 1 Cor 15:7. James' life appeared to evolve from doubter to church leader. Imagine growing up with an older brother who was THE Son of God. "Why can't you be more like Jesus?" his mother said!!

Pillar of the Early Church: Gal 2:9; Acts 12:17; Acts 15; Acts 21:18-19; 1 Cor 9:5.

Audience: Christian Jews living outside of Palestine who had been scattered from Jerusalem due to persecution (Acts 8:1, 4; Acts 11:19).

The Problem: Living what you believe.

The Answer: **FOOTSTOMP - IT'S HALFTIME.** You guys have not played well in the first half, and you need to get with it. The Book of James is God using His younger half-brother to give these new Jewish Christians a "pep talk." There are over 50 imperatives in this short book. James wasn't about to "pull any punches." Let's look at some examples:

James' Halftime Talk

TRAIT	1st HALF (Poor)			2nd HALF (Best)		
Treatment of Others	1A	James	2:1	1B	James	2:8
Faith	2A	James	2:15-16	2B	James	2:17
Tongue	3A	James	1:26, 3:5	3B	James	1:19, 3:4, 5:12
Wisdom	4A	James	3:14-16	4B	James	3:17-18
Character	5A	James	4:2-3, 17	5B	James	4:7-8
Stewardship	6A	James	5:5-6	6B	James	5:7-8
Trials	7A	James	1:13-16	7B	James	1:2-4, 5:11

Homework: As the teachers lead us through the book each week, look for God's speaking to you about your performance and His guidance as to what you need to do in the "SECOND HALF."

Note: Some of the background information is adapted from Warren Weirsbe's Be Mature book on James.