

David W Fletcher, 1983

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JAMES—CHARACTERISTICS OF PURE FAITH (AN OUTLINE)

Introduction—Salutation (1:1).

I. Perseverance in trials (1:2-18).

- A. Joy, wisdom, and confidence amidst trials (1:2-8).
- B. Poverty, riches, and trials (1:9-11).
- C. Reward of patient endurance in trials (1:12).
- D. Admonition not to blame God, but to recognize his goodness (1:13-18).

II. Obedience to the word (1:19-27).

- A. Sincerity in hearing the word (1:19-21).
- B. Folly of hearing but not doing (1:22-25).
- C. Contrast between pure and worthless religion (1:26-27).

III. Love to all equally, not just to the rich (2:1-13).

- A. Favoritism in the assembly condemned (2:1-4).
- B. Actions of the rich condemned (2:5-7).
- C. Admonition to follow the royal law (2:8-13).

IV. Faith with works (2:14-26).

- A. Need for works proven by common sense (2:14-19).
- B. Need for works proven by justification of Abraham and Rahab (2:20-26).

V. Control of the tongue (3:1–4:17).

- A. Control of tongue by teachers especially demanded (3:1-12).
- B. Heavenly wisdom (instead of devilish “wisdom”) demanded (3:13-18).
- C. Asking with impure motives prohibited (4:1-3).
- D. Submission to God demanded (4:4-10).
- E. Slandering of brothers prohibited (4:11-12).
- F. Excessive boasting prohibited (4:13-17).

VI. Perseverance in suffering (5:1-20).

- A. Knowledge that rich oppressors will be judged yields patience (5:1-6).
- B. Confidence in God’s ultimate judgment yields patience (5:7-12).
- C. Community life of believers yields patience (5:13-20).