

Introduction

1. Not everybody who grows old, grows up; there is a vast difference between AGE and MATURITY! Problems caused by immaturity hurts our personal lives, family lives and church lives perhaps more than anything else.
2. James was written to help us understand and attain spiritual maturity (James 1:4) It is the “how to book” for living in today’s world as a Christian. As we prepare for this trip into James let’s look at where we are going...

I. Who Was James?

- a. Several Men Had This Name In New Testament History...
 - i. James, son of Zebedee and brother of John – Mt 4:17-22; Mk 3:17; Lk 9:51-56
 - ii. James, son of Alphaeus – Mt 10:3; Ac 1:12
 - iii. James, father of Judas the apostle – Lk 6:16
 - iv. James, the brother of the Lord – Jm 1:1; Mt 13:55; Mk 3:31-35; Jn 7:1-5; Acts 1:14
- b. What Kind Of Man Was James?
 - i. A deeply spiritual man – Acts 15
 - ii. A married man? – 1 Co 9:5
 - iii. A man who taught like Jesus
 1. James 1:2 – Matthew 5:10-12; James 1:4- Matthew 5:48; James 1:5 – Matthew 7:7-12; James 1:12 – Matthew 5:2-11; James 1:22 – Matthew 7:21-27; James 4:11-12 – Matthew 7:1-5; James 5:1-3 – Matthew 6:19-21; James 5:12 – Matthew 5:33-37

II. To Whom Did James Write This Epistle?

- a. To The Twelve Tribes Which Are Scattered Abroad (Jm 1:1)
- b. To Many Who Were Poor & Oppressed (Jm 2:6-7)

III. Why Did James Write This Epistle?

- a. The People Were Having Problems In Their Personal Lives & In The Church
- b. These Problems Are Not Much Different From Ours Today
- c. However These Problems Were Not Unrelated
 - i. They all had one common cause: SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY
 - ii. Impatience in difficulties – Jm 1:1-4
 - iii. Talking but not living the truth – Jm 2:14ff
 - iv. Lack of control with their tongue – Jm 3:1ff
 - v. Fighting and coveting – Jm 4:1ff
 - vi. Collecting material “toys” – Jm 5:1ff
- d. And So James Writes To Fulfill A Great Need: That Of Spiritual Maturity

IV. How Can We Get The Most Out Of This Epistle?

- a. First, we must be born again – 1 Peter 1:22-23; Jm 1:18; Titus 3:5
- b. Second, we must honestly examine ourselves in the light of God’s Word – Jm 1:22
- c. Third, we must obey what God teaches, no matter the cost – Jm 1:25
- d. Fourth, we must be prepared for some extra trials and testing – Jm 1:3,12
- e. Finally, we must measure our spiritual growth by the Word of God – 2 Co 10:12