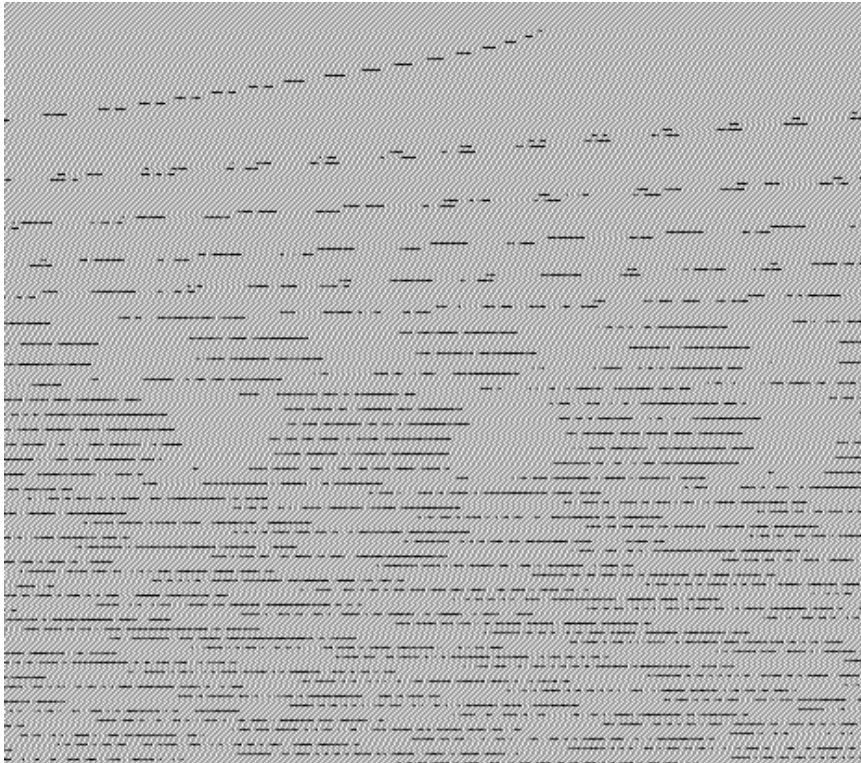


THIRD YEAR

# epistles III

Letters to the Church

TEXTBOOK



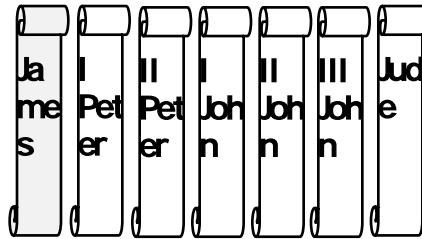
# Epistles III

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## Letters to the Church

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## James



### The Writer of the Epistle of James

James 1:1 "James a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ..." *Servant* "a bond man; in subjection; a voluntary slave" (Only the will of God will be performed.)

This simple signature tells us the writer was well known to his readers and needed not lengthy introduction. He was a man highly esteemed among them, one who stood in a position of recognized spiritual authority, and one whom they were obliged to obey. There are four men named James' who lived around the NT era, but "James the Brother of the Lord" stands as the most probable writer of this epistle.

#### **James the son of Zebedee & brother of John.**

This man was the most prominent "James" in the gospels. He was one of the "sons of thunder," originally a fisherman with John (his brother), along with Peter and Andrew. He became a disciple of Jesus. He was one of the three inner disciples and was later martyred by Herod Agrippa I, as recorded in Acts 12:2 (A.D. 44). There is not much chance that this James could have written this letter before he was killed, and there is no tradition arguing that he did.

#### **James the son of Alphaeus, another disciple**

Very little is known about this James, the brother of Matthew (Levi). He was another disciple of our Lord, but again, there is no hint that he is the one who wrote this epistle. Matt. 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13

#### **James the father of Judas the disciple**

(Judas Thaddaeus). This man is even more obscure. Not a likely candidate.

#### **James the brother of Jude & half-brother of our Lord.**

Also known as James the Less, This James appears to be the writer of the epistle of James. He is not so identified, but much about his character is revealed that is in keeping with what is known about him. This choice is also in keeping with tradition which tells us that he remained in Jerusalem and that Peter, James, & John chose James, the brother of Jesus to be the pastor of the Jerusalem church after the ascension of Christ (cf. Clement of Alexandria). The fact that he does not so identify himself (as our Lord's brother) may be an indication of his humility, but it also reveals the standing and personal authority he had over his readers. He was a man well known and highly esteemed in the

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new Christian community. "James, a servant of God and of Jesus Christ" was sufficient identification for them.

James is first introduced in Matthew 13:55 as one of our Lord's brethren. John 7:5 relates the sad fact that even as late as six months before the crucifixion (the feast of tabernacles), James was still an unbeliever.

1 Cor. 15:7 tells us that in the midst of the resurrection appearances of Christ, "He was seen of James." A little later, a number of people are recorded as meeting for prayer with the apostles in the upper room, as they awaited Pentecost; among them were "Mary the mother of Jesus, and His brethren."

In Gal. 1:18-19 Paul is describing the events of his life following his three years in Arabia after his conversion; at this time he spent two weeks with Peter in Jerusalem and also met another important church leader, "James the Lord's brother." By the time of Acts 12:17 James was evidently already a leader in the Jerusalem church, for Peter, released from prison, asks that the news be reported to James. In Acts 15:13 James is the one presiding at the great council of Jerusalem which met to decide the important question of the relationship of Christianity to the Mosaic law; his leadership role is evident.

In Gal. 2:9 Paul refers to him as a "pillar" of the church—equal to Peter and John. So far James has come from his unbelief! The remaining references to James (Gal. 2:12-13 & Acts 21:18-19) reveal his zeal for the Mosaic law. He was evidently in firm agreement with the decision of the Jerusalem council (Acts 15:13-19), but he was also careful to keep peace between the Gentile believers and the more "legalistic" Jewish Christians (verse 20). Perhaps he himself (as Peter, cf. Gal. 2:11) carried this matter too far; this does not minimize his standing as an apostle, however (Gal. 1:19). (Note: At least four other men beside the original 11 have apostolic status: Matthias [Acts 1:26], Barnabas [Acts 14:4, 14], Paul, and James.) He was "nicknamed" "James the Just" because of his recognized piety, and was said to have "knees like those of camels" because of his much time spent in prayer. Josephus records that James was martyred during an uprising against Christians while Ananus was high priest in 62 A.D.

He was elected to the oversight of the churches of Jerusalem; and was the writer of the Epistle ascribed to James. At the age of ninety-four he was beat and stoned by the Jews, and finally had his brains dashed out with a fuller's club.

**Details of James the Less' martyrdom** are found in the writings of Josephus, Eusebius, and Jerome. When Festus, the governor of Judea, died, Nero replaced him with Albinus. About the same time, Herod Agrippa II replaced the Jewish high priest Joseph with Ananus. After Festus died and before Albinus had arrived in Judea to replace him, the new high priest decided to pressure James the Less to deny that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God. Ananus was taking advantage of a lapse in leadership at the end of Festus' reign. Similar circumstances at the end of Pilate's reign over Judea led to the stoning of Saint Stephen.

The Jewish high priest asked James to stand on the Temple wall and speak against Jesus to the crowds which had gathered in preparation for the Passover. James instead spoke in favor of Jesus as the Christ; many heard him and many were converted. So the Jewish religious leaders threw James down from the Temple wall. Yet he did not die from the fall, so they began to stone him. Still he did not die from the stoning, so a man took a fuller club (used to beat out clothing) and clubbed him to death. In this way died James

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the Less, one of Twelve Apostles and the leader of the Church at Jerusalem for 30 years

## The Purpose of Writing

### A. Address all Believers

"To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad." 1:1

To the brethren—including the entire church of Jewish Christians

1:1; 1:16; 2:1,5,14; 3:1; 4:11; 5:7,9,10,19

### Encourage Perfection in Christian Character

The epistle of James is a manual of instructions for holy living and a practical guide to Christian life and conduct. As a guidebook for true religion, James gives a pattern showing the characteristics of true faith.

### Warn of Vices

In encouraging the perfection of Christian character, James warns of many vices: fatalism, fanaticism, formalism, favoritism, falsehood, fierce spirit, foul talk and evil speaking, and fearlessness and boasting to name a few.

**Fatalism**, which threw its sins on God

*James 1:13—Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God...*

**Fanaticism**, which, under the cloak of religious Zeal, was tearing Jerusalem in pieces

Many men do not have real convictions of their own and they try to live up to the standards of others and find themselves frustrated.

*James 1:20—For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.*

**Formalism** consists in washings and outward ceremonies

Whereas he reminds them that true religion consists in active love and purity.

*James 1:27—Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this; To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.*

**Favoritism** - Respect of persons. James 2:1-18

**Falsehood**, which had made words and oaths play-things (3:2-12)

**Fierce spirit**, Friendship with the world. Partisanship

If you're under the influence of a strong false view, fierce, unkind and contemptuous spirit, "ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts." Attempting or pretending to defend true religion, and to boast of your works or success in silencing an enemy; is not pure religion, nor true wisdom, and to profess either without giving God the full Glory is to lie against the truth.

*James 3:14—But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.*

**Foul Talk or Evil Speaking**

*James 4:11—Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.*

**Fearlessness and Boasting**

*James 4:16—But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.*

## Instruct in Patience

The great lesson which he teaches them as Christians is patience, and the ground of their patience is that the coming of the Lord is drawing nigh. We need to have full Revelation of God's Word that we may understand God's Eternal Purpose. Patience...

in trial (1:2)

in good works (1:22-25)

under provocation (3:17)

though treated with fraud (5:4)

under oppression (5:7)

under persecution (5:10)

*James 5:7-9—Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. 8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. 9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.*

**The book of James is not merely informative but inspirational, as well.**

The object of the writer is to inspire men to enforce the practical duties of the Christian life. In James 1:2-12 James gives five urgent requirements of faith and in so doing he illustrates faith's spiritual vitality. WE NEED FAITH; without it we will die. In order for faith to remain true and alive it must be added to. Faith can only be added to as it is exercised. Faith is to always be in action, not just in motion doing something, but doing the Will of God.

## Theme & Key Text

A. Theme: True faith produces good works

1:3,4,25,27; 2:18,20,22,26; 3:17,18; 4:6-11,17; 5:7-9,12,15,17-20

Key Text: James 2:17,18

*James 2:17,18—Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. 18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*

## Textual Outline

A. Chapter 1 — Practical instruction on Christian living

Chapter 2 — Show no partiality vs. 1-13 — "Faith without works is dead" vs. 14-26

Chapter 3 — The power of the tongue — Earthly wisdom vs. heavenly wisdom

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Chapter 4 — The friend of the world is the enemy of God

Chapter 5 — Corrupted rich men — Be patient — More practical instruction on Christian living

The whole book of James is dealing with practical everyday living according to the Word of God. When he begins and ends the book, he deals with several points briefly, but in the main body of the book/letter, he singles out several important issues and takes some time to deal with them individually.

### Topical Outline

GENERAL TOPICS	VERSES
A. The trying of your faith.	1:1-27
B. The showing of your faith.	1:22-3:18
C. The fruit of your faith.	1:5,17-18; 2:5,23; 3:13-18; 5:16
D. Warnings	4:1-5:20
E. Exhortations	1:2,12,18,25,27; 2:1,18; 3:1,17,18; 4:4,6-12,17; 5:7,8,9,17, 18
F. Instructions	1:3,5-8,13-15; 2:1-13,14-26; 3:1-18; 4:1-5,7-11,13-16; 5:12,13-16

#### A. The Trying of Your Faith (Joy and Patience)

James

##### 1:1-27

1. There are five urgent requirements of faith: Joy, Patience, Wisdom, Unwavering Mind and Love.

##### Joy

Count it a joy to serve God even when your faith is being tried. We can have a Joy that will rejoice in the Promise rather than react to the problem. Where Christ is working there is Joy. James 1:2 "Count it all joy" 5:10; 4:9

##### Patience

Know that the trial is to work Patience so that we press in, press through and press on. Patience is a sign your faith is working. Patience has its place with Faith and Joy unto Perfection. Where Christ is working there is Patience.

*James 1:3—The trying of your faith worketh patience.*

*James 1:4—Let patience have her perfect work.*

##### Wisdom

Ask for Wisdom and it shall be given. We are given the Uncion to speak and act wisely in the hour of trial. Where Christ is working there is wisdom.

*James 1:5—If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God...*

##### Unwavering mind

We need a humble mind that will always depend on the Lord. A faith that refuses



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to respond to the surging billows of doubt in the hour of trial. Endurance has its place with Faith and Love through every trial. Where Christ is working there is endurance (1:12) with an unwavering mind.

*James 1:6—...nothing wavering...*

*James 1:8—A double minded man is unstable in all his ways*

Love

Pure Love never fails to make faith work perfectly. Faith and Love are content with God's dealings in the hour of trial. Where Christ is working there is Love.

*James 1:12—Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*

*James 1:2—My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

There are diverse temptations and trials. 1:2

a. Faith tried by the Word. Ps. 105:19, Jer. 23:29, I Cor. 3:13, I Peter 1:7,22

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Promises (1:12) /Father of lights (1:17) /Word of Truth (1:18) /engrafted Word (1:21,23) /The Perfect Law of liberty (1:25) /Gospel: pure & unspotted religion /Wisdom from Above (3:17)

God tests and never tempts (James 1:12-13). God tests to prove our faith, correct our conduct and to perfect our character.

God allows temptation (James 1:2, 12-13; 2:5; 5:13; I Cor. 10:13).

REFERENCE	WHY?
Psalms 119:67	Because we didn't listen directly to the Word of God.
James 1:14	For the unbeliever to see his faults and weaknesses.
I Cor. 3:13	The fiery trial reveals to others who you really are.
I Cor. 15:57; II Cor. 2:14	God gives victory and causes Triumph.
Matt. 4:1-4; Rev. 12:6, 13-16	The wilderness experience is a feeding time spiritually.

God rewards those that truly love Him.

James 1:12

Faith Tried by Afflictions, Hardships, Tests, and Trials Affliction is any condition that produces suffering or pain.

1) There are two types of affliction:

THE FIRST is designed to judge sin (Isaiah 53:4; Matthew 24:29; Romans 2:9)

THE SECOND is designed to purify and perfect the believer (James 1:2-4; 5:13; Rom. 5:3-5; 8:18; II Thess. 1:4-7; Isaiah 48:10, 63:9; Hosea 5:15; II Chron. 33:12; I Peter 5:9,10).

2) In both cases you that are spiritual must be a help to those that are afflicted (James 1:17; Gal. 6:1; I Cor. 2:15).

3) How to pray in affliction.

INSTRUCTION	REFERENCE
Learn to pray through alone. (learn to believe God for yourself, but there is strength and victory when everyone works together)	James 5:13; Isaiah 51:1,2; 40:31; Psalm 34:19, 40:1,2
You can't pray away the night of sorrow, but you can endure.	James 1:12; 5:11; Hebrews 12:7
Let God change you inside while you praise Him through the trial.	James 5:13b—sing
Pray that you enter not into temptation.	Luke 22:40,46;

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Watch you therefore and pray always	Luke 21:36
Three examples to follow when suffering affliction are given by James	5:10 (The prophets); 5:11 (Job); 5:17 (Elijah)

Examples of those falling into temptation.

Those scattered abroad. 1:1  
 Falling into temptations without joy. 1:2  
 Impatient. 1:3,4  
 Unwise. 1:5  
 Wavering. 1:6  
 Double-minded. 1:8  
 Low degree. 1:9  
 Rich man fading away in his ways 1:10-11  
 Drawn away and enticed. 1:14  
 Those in error. 1:16  
 Those with wrath. 1:20  
 Hearers only. 1:22-25  
 Those with unbridled tongue. 1:26  
 Defiled and spotted by the world. 1:27  
 Professors of faith without good works. 2:18

A. The Showing of Your Faith. (Wisdom and Meekness) James  
1:22-3:18

*Jas. 2:18—I will shew you my faith by my works*

Because the kingdom of God is not a natural kingdom (Luke 17:20) our faith is justified in the eyes of those that behold our good works. *Matt. 5:16; Eph. 2:10*

*I Pt. 2:12—...by your good works which they shall behold, glorify God...*

*Gal. 5:6; I Thess. 1:3, 2:13; Phil. 2:12-13; I Jn. 3:18, 23-24; Titus 3:8; 1:13-14; 2:11-14*

1. Your faith without good works...

*will not profit*  
James 2:14-16

*will not live*  
James 2:17, 20, 26

*will face the judgment*  
Revelation 2:12

Your Faith receives the engrafted Word of God with meekness unto perfection.

*James 1:17, 18, 21; 2:18-22; I Peter 1:9-11, 13-17, 22, 23*

a. Abraham (2:21, 22) was justified by works and his Faith was made perfect by works. *I Peter 1:9; Colossians 2:10, 4:12*

Rahab (2:25) was justified by works.

Elijah (5:17-20) saw the need of the nation and did what God told him to do. *I Kings 18:1 "Go shew thyself..." 18:15 "today"*

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Your faith with wisdom.

*James 1:5—If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

*James 3:1—My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. (finding fault harshly and unwisely)*

*Proverbs 2:6—In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths;*

*Ecclesiastes 2:26—For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy; but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit.*

*Psalms 105:22 (Teach wisdom)*

*James 3:17—But the wisdom that is from above is first..*

Pure	1:21, 27
Peaceable	1:26; 3:1,2 (3:10,16)
Gentle	2:8, 25
Easy to be entreated	2:21-23
Full of mercy	2:13,15,16; 5:19-20
Good fruits	3:18

Must constantly be produced. *Psalms 92:13,14; James 5:7; Phil. 1:11*

Must be grown only in good ground. *Matt. 13:8,23; Luke 8:8,15; Gal. 5:22,23; Eph. 5:9-11*

Without partiality	2:1,4,9; 4:11-12
Without hypocrisy	1:8,16,26; 3:9-12; 4:1-10,17

## B. The Fruit of Your Faith (Righteousness and Peace)

1:5, 17, 18; 2:5, 23; 3:13-18; 5:16

### 1. The trying of your faith worketh patience 1:3

Patience shows itself through faith and good works unto perfection.

1:4

The righteousness of God is revealed to us from faith to faith 2:23;

3:17; Rom. 1:17; II Cor. 5:21; I Cor. 1:30

a. Producing a perfect man James 1:4; I Peter 5:10; Eph. 4:13; James 3:2

Producing a blessed man. 1:12, 25

Producing a patient man. 1:3,4; 5:10, 11

Producing a wise man. 1:5; 3:13, 17

Producing a saved soul. 1:21

Producing beloved brethren. 1:2, 16, 19

Producing a man of love 1:12, 27; 2:8

Sacrificial love for people and Unspotted love for God.

Producing a righteous man 1:20; 2:21-23; 5:16

Producing the first fruits of His creatures 1:18; Phil. 3:14

Chief among his creatures; The first-fruits were the best of every kind to be offered to God, and were given as God's peculiar right and portion; thus the new creature

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is God's peculiar portion taken out of mankind, which being consecrated to God by a new birth, they ought to serve him with a new spirit, new heart and new thankfulness, as living under the highest obligations unto new obedience.

The fruit of righteousness unto holiness (reproduces after its kind)

*James 3:18—And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.*

*Romans 6:16—... to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are...*

*Rom. 6:19—I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.*

*Rom. 6:22—But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*

From faith to righteousness unto holiness

Obedience to the word to good conduct unto good character

Perfect faith to perfect conduct unto perfect character

Right character should always produce right conduct

The proof of a man's faith is a manifestation of Christ's life.

## Study Questions – James

1. What are the five urgent requirements of faith?
2. Why does God test man?
3. When does God allow temptation?
4. Who does God reward with the crown of life?
5. For what are the two types of affliction designed?
6. How is a man's faith justified before men?
7. Describe what the wisdom from beneath is like?
8. Describe what the wisdom from above is like?
9. What is the fruit of your faith?
10. What is the proof of a man's faith?

Bonus: Expound on James 5:7-8 in light of Joel 2:23-29

# I Peter

## I. Introduction to I Peter

### A. Writer:

Peter an Apostle of Jesus Christ

### The Purpose For Writing I Peter

1. To exhort and testify the revelation given to him 5:12  
To fulfill the two commandments Lord gave personally to him.
  - a. Strengthen the brethren Luke 22:32 I Peter 5:10 II Peter 1:12
- Feed the flock John 21:15-17 I Peter 5:2
- To show the Word of the Lord endures forever I Peter 1:25
  - a. The Word was living in Peter (1:25)
- The Word was to live in them (1:23, 25)
- The Word is to live in us
- Every believer is to be guarded by the power of God (1:5)

### Theme

**The TRUE Grace of God (I Peter 5:12)**

## Salvation of the Believer

### A. The Triune God preparing an Elect people (1:2)

(The Eternal Purpose of the Godhead)

1. Foreknowledge of God—God the Father  
Sanctification of the Spirit—God the Holy Spirit  
Sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ—God the Son  
Obedience of the believer unto election—Overcoming Saints  
(Receiving many sons unto Glory) Hebrews 2:10 I Peter 1:11; 5:1  
God's desire in relation to the overcoming Saints is that they overcome all sin, be thoroughly sanctified and take on the likeness of His Son.

- 1:1 Strangers scattered called to be the Elect
- 1:2 Grace and Peace multiplying unto an Election
- 1:2 Unto Obedience
- 1:3 Abundant Mercy
- 1:10 Grace coming unto you
- 1:13--Grace revealing Christ in you
- 1:20--Christ's life manifested in you
- 1:21--That your faith and hope may be in God
- 1:22--Obeying and loving fervently
- 2:1--"Lay aside ALL"
- 2:12--"Desire the sincere milk of the Word"
  - Righteousness revealed from faith to faith

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(Romans 1:17)

--Grace reigns through righteousness

(Romans 5:21)

--By Grace through Faith (Ephesians 2:8)

3:12--The eyes of the Lord are over the Righteous

3:14--If ye suffer righteousness sake happy are ye

3:18--"That He might bring us to God"

4:17-18--Or bring us to judgment

4:19. 1:5--Judge Him faithful and commit your soul into His keeping, as you do well, even though you suffer for it

The Word of God is the Source of our Salvation

1. The full inheritance is reserved in Heaven 1:4

The Power of God's Word is in the obedient believer 1:5, 22

"It is written" 1:6, 11

"The Gospel is preached" 1:25, 12

The truth is revealed 1:5, 12-13, 20, 22-23

The Word of God revealed is seed producing eternal life

The Truth vitally experienced

The true Grace of God working in the believer's life I Peter 1:2, 10, 13, 22, 19, 20, 3:7, 4:10, 5:5, 10, 12

a. Faith—acting on the Word 1:21

Hope—great expectation 1:3, 21

Love—desire and effort for greater demonstration more and more and more 1:22, 4:8, 14

The truth vitally expressed 1:23, 25

a. We never fail when obeying the Word

The Word of the Lord Liveth, abideth and endureth forever.

We fail only when we neglect His grace that has been given to us 2:8, 10

God's foreordained plan will be revealed in these last days

This is an End time deliverance. 1:2, 4-17, 20 4:7, 17

1. Initial

1:2, 18, 19, 21, 23 2:6, 25 3:18

Progressive

1:23-5, 9, 13, 22, 21, 2

The Blood of Sprinkling

I Peter 1:2; Hebrews 9:13, 19, 2; Hebrews 10:22; Hebrews 11:28; Hebrews 12:24;

Exodus 12:7; Exodus 24:8; Leviticus 4:6; Leviticus 8:15; Numbers 19:4

The inheritance of every obedient believer is by revelation of Jesus Christ 1:4, 5, 12, 13, 20

a. Begotten 1:3

Redeemed 1:18, 19

Born again 1:23



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Be ye holy 1:15, 16

**Sanctification of the believer.**

"Sanctification of the Spirit" 1:2

Sanctification is a separation from sin and a setting apart unto God by the Spirit

- A. Be obedient (1:2)
- Greatly rejoicing (1:6)
- Be ye holy (1:16)
- Fear God (1:17)
- Purify your soul by obeying the truth (1:22)
- Love one another (1:22)
- Put away all evil (2:1)
- Grow up by desiring the pure milk of the Word (2:2)
- Offer up spiritual sacrifices (2:5)
- Show forth His excellent greatness (2:9)
- Abstain from fleshly lust that war against the soul (2:11)
- Be honest and show good works (2:12)
- Live unto righteousness (2:24)
- Sanctify the Lord in your heart (3:15)

**The Submission of the believer**

- A. Submit yourself to God 5:5,6
- Submit yourself to every ordinance of man 2:13
- 1. Government 2:13-17
- Business 2:18-25
- Marriage 3:1-7
- Friendship 3:8-12; 5:5

**The Suffering of the Believer 3:13; 5:10**

- A. Trials 1:6,7; 2:19-23; 4:12,13,19; 5:9,10

*"A season of heaviness"*

Sickness 2:24

*"By Whose stripes ye were healed"*

Opportunity to witness 3:13-21; 4:13; 5:1,2

*"Give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you"*

**The Stewardship of the Believer 4:1,7 - 5:14**

- A. Having the mind of Christ 4:1
- Have the love of God 4:8
- Having the gifts of God 4:10
- Having the ability which God gives 4:11

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Having the glory of God revealed in your life	4:14; 5:1
Be steadfast	5:9, 12
Salute	5:13
Greet ye one another with love and peace	5:14

## Study Questions - I Peter

1. What are the two commandments the Lord gave Peter?

What word is used in I Peter 1:5 that means to be guarded?

Read I Peter 1:5; Define end-time salvation. By using other Scriptures show end-time salvation is already being revealed.

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Give the theme of I Peter.

Write out the five major points of the outline.

Explain your understanding of the God-head.

What is God's desire in relation to the overcoming Saints?

What must the Believer desire in order to grow according to 2:2?

The Word of God revealed is \_\_\_\_\_ producing \_\_\_\_\_.

How does every obedient Believer receive his inheritance?

Define sanctification and give some examples of how it works in the Believer's life.

Memorize I Peter 5:10 and write it out verbatim.

## Quiz - I Peter

1. What are the two commandments the Lord gave Peter?  
Strengthen the brethren and Feed the flock.
2. What word is used in I Peter 1:5 that means to be guarded?  
"kept"
3. (I Peter 1:5) Briefly define end-time salvation.  
End time salvation is a complete work of God redeeming (buying back) His people from sin, not only the penalty of sin (death) and the power of sin (its dominion in our lives), but also the nature of sin (that innate propensity to do wrong). By grace through faith we may completely overcome the sin nature in ourselves and be made "partakers of the divine nature" (II Peter 1:4).  
II Peter 1:4; Hebrews 6:1  
leaving = this does not mean to forsake, but to "progress on from that point"  
Ephesians 4: 11-15; Matthew 5:48; I Corinthians 14:37
4. Give the theme of I Peter.  
The true grace of God
5. What must the Believer desire in order to grow according to 2:2?  
The Sincere milk of the Word.
6. How does every obedient Believer receive his inheritance?  
By revelation of Jesus Christ (P. 13) As we live in obedience to the Word of God (which includes seeking the Lord fervently with all our desire), we will receive our inheritance as the Lord reveal it to us. We must seek Him for this.
7. Define sanctification.  
Sanctification is a separation from sin and a setting apart unto God by the Spirit.
8. Write from memory I Peter 5:10.  
But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

## II Peter

### I. Writer: Peter a Servant and Apostle of Jesus Christ

Simon was his name. The name Peter was given to him by the Lord. The introduction shows his service and apostleship

Mat 4:18, 10:2      Luke 6:14      Jn. 1:40-42, 21:15-17      Mat 16:16-18  
Acts 2:14      Mk. 3:16

## The Purpose For Writing II Peter

A. To give a constant reminder

II Peter 1:8, 12-16;      2:21;      3:1-3, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17-18

B. Continue to fulfill the two general commands God gave to Him

1. Strengthen the brethren

Luke 22:32      I Peter 5:10      II Peter 1:12

a. Against attack from the inside

1.) False teaching and damnable heresies  
2:1-8

2.) Scoffers walking after their own lusts  
3:3-5, 17

2. Feed the flock of God. Jn. 21:15-17 II Peter 1:1-11

C. To show that every believer must totally acknowledge Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord in their life

II Peter 1:1-2, 16-18, 2:1, 9, 20,      3:2, 15, 18

D. To show the secrets of growing      II Peter 1:3-8

E. To declare a more sure Word of Prophecy  
II Peter 1:19-21

## Theme

**Knowing Christ and growing up in Him to be like Him.**

## The outline of II Peter

A. Knowing Christ and diligently making every effort to be like Him through faith.

Jesus Christ is our Saviour and Lord and is worthy of our total devotion. As Lord He is in complete control of our life. God is righteous in giving all, like precious faith.

1. The Gift of Knowledge 1:1-4
  - a. Servant- Apostle 1:1
  - b. Like precious faith 1:2
  - c. Through the Righteousness of God 1:1
  - d. Grace and Peace multiplied 1:2
  - e. Divine Power 1:3

"According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness."
  - f. Divine life. 1:3
  - g. Divine Promises 1:4

Over 30,000 promises are written in the Bible and they are all good for every believer.
  - h. Divine Nature. 1:4

### 2 The growth in knowledge 1:5-12

Once He gives you the revelation of Christ He makes you to exercise your faith in the knowledge you have been given.

- a. Giving all diligence add to your faith.  
The Lord adds as you exercise your faith.
  - (1.) Virtue
  - (2.) Knowledge
  - (3.) Temperance
  - (4.) Patience
  - (5.) Godliness
  - (6.) Brotherly Kindness
  - (7.) Charity
- b. Give diligence to make your calling and election sure 1:10-11

### 3 The calling and the election of the believer.

- a. To life and godliness
  - 1.) Spiritual life must exist before there can be godliness
  - 2.) Spiritual life is received from Jesus Christ the Lord by faith.
    - a.) Faith acknowledges Jesus Christ as Saviour.
    - b.) Faith acknowledges Jesus Christ as

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- Lord.
- c.) Faith obtains what it acknowledges in Christ
  - d.) Faith appropriates the promises
- 3.) Spiritual life is by grace through faith based on right knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord.
  - 4.) Spiritual life is rewarded with an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom.
- b. Ye do well to take heed 1:19--Timely counsel  
If any man will do His will he shall know of the doctrine Jn 7:17  
And ye shall know the Truth Jn. 8:32  
For if these things be in you and abound they make you. 1:8  
For if you do these things ye shall never fall. 1:10  
If you know these things happy are ye if you do them Jn. 13:17 Ps. 119:17-20

~GOAL~

Always expressing His person \_\_\_\_  
Exact representation of His very being

Be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace without spot and blameless 3:14

- 4. The Glory of the Knowledge 1:1-21
    - a. Servant of Jesus Christ
      - A slave totally possessed by his master
      - A bond servant
      - Vowed to serve the rest of his life
      - 1.) Apostle of Jesus Christ
        - A representative of Christ, sent forth.
        - An ambassador for Christ
        - The apostle progresses in all power and authority of the One who sent him.
      - 2.) Called to be an apostle
      - 3.) Peter answered the call for service
- and
- ministry setting an example



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- b. Grace and Peace multiplied in the believer's life as faith is developed 1:2
- c. Escape the corruption, pollution and ignorance of this world 1:4 2:20 3:5
- d. Fruitful, active and having good spiritual vision seeing afar off 1:8,9
- e. Partake of His divine nature 1:4
- f. An election 1:10
- h. Richly supplied with an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom 1:11
- i. The testimony of an apostle of Jesus Christ as an eye witness to the truth 1:12-18
- j. A glorious experience 1:19  
When the daystar arises in your heart
- k. A sure lamp. 1:19
  - 1). A more sure Word of Prophecy
  - 2). A light that shineth in a dark place
  - 3). Holy men of God spoke as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost
  - 4). True knowledge and True prophecy  
The Bible was not written by human reasoning but by divine revelation from the Holy Ghost

B. Knowing Christ's judgment on those that do not make every effort to be like Him 2:1-22

Key verses in chapter two: 2:1,9

- 1. Identifying the false
  - a. False prophets, False teachers, damnable heresies, denying the Lord, swift destruction 2:1
  - b. Pernicious ways, the way of truth evil spoken of. 2:2
  - c. Covetousness, feigned words, make merchandise of you, their judgment lingereth not, their damnation slumbereth not 2:3
  - d. Fallen angels 2:4
  - e. Spared not the old world before the flood 2:5
  - f. Sodom and Gomorrah 2:6-9
  - g. Self-willed 2:10-11
  - h. Natural brute beast 2:12
  - i. Hypocrites 2:13
  - j. Eyes full of adultery 2:14
  - k. The way of Balaam. 2:15-16
  - l. Wells without water – dried up. 2:17
  - m. Tempest driven clouds 2:17
  - n. Speak great swelling words of vanity, allure through the lust of the flesh, much wantonness, living in error 2:18

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- o. Servants of corruption 219
- p. Brought into bondage 219
- q. Again entangled and overcome 220
- r. To turn from the Holy Commandment 221
- s. The dog is turned to his own vomit 221
- t. The sow wallowing in the mire 221
- 2. It is better not to know the way of righteousness than to know and turn from it 219-21
  
- C. Knowing concerning the beloved 3:1,8,14-15,17
- 1. Faith and knowledge with grace and righteousness
  - a. Knowledge is the sphere for grace to work in our life 1:2
  - b. Knowledge is the way of truth 22
  - c. Knowledge is the way of righteousness 221
  - d. Knowledge is given as faith is obtained 1:1-2
    - 1.) Knowledge of his person, power, process, and eternal purpose
    - 2.) Knowledge-"exceeding great and precious promises" 1:4
      - "By grace through faith"
      - Eph. 2:8 1:1-2
      - a) Through faith
      - b) Through righteousness
      - c) Through Knowledge
    - 3.) Knowledge stirs up the pure mind to increase your faith
      - 1:1; 5:12,13; 3:1,2
      - a) Knowing is seeing by faith
        - (1.) Knowledge of God for spiritual life 1:1-9
        - (2.) Knowledge of the everlasting kingdom 1:10,11
        - (3.) The knowledge of God for us to be like His Son 1:12-21
        - (4.) The knowledge concerning His promises 3:1-18
- 2. Grace is given where right knowledge is applied 1:2
  - a. Grace is sufficient 2 Cor. 12:9
  - b. Grace is sovereign John 1:7
  - c. Grace is our source 2 Cor. 9:8
- 3. The beloved's action
  - a. Be mindful 3:1-7
  - b. Be not ignorant 3:8-11
  - c. Be diligent 3:11-14

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- d. Beware 3:15-18
  - e. Peter's diligence 1:15 Paul's wisdom 3:15
- 4. The Beloved's warning 3:17
  - a. Moral corruption 1:1-14
  - b. Doctrinal pollutions 1:15, 2:1-22
  - c. Steadfast among the error of the wicked 3:1-18
- 5. The beloved's knowledge
  - a. Know God's Word is true 3:1-4
  - b. Know God's work is consistent 3:5-7
  - c. Know God's will is long suffering and merciful 3:8-10
  - d. Know God's day of judgment 3:11-14
  - e. Know God's long suffering is salvation 3:15-17
  - f. Knowing God and growing in His grace 3:18
- 1). Growing in the true Grace of God 1:2 3:18
  - 2). Growing in the true Knowledge of God 1:1-12, 6, 19-21 2:2, 9, 19-20 3:1-2, 16-18
  - 3). Growing in Righteousness 1:1 2:5, 8, 13, 20-21 3:13-14
  - 4). Growing in Peace 1:2, 3:14 Ps 85:10
  - 5). Growing in Faith 1:1 5-8 Gal. 5:6 Romans 1:17 Psalm 84:7
    - a). Faith warned 1:9
    - b). Faith reminded, re-established reinforced. 1:12
    - c). Faith encouraged 1:16
    - d). Faith perfected
  - 6). Growing in Power 1:3 10, 16, 21
  - 7). Growing in Love 1:7; 3:1, 2
    - a). Loving the Lord
    - b). Loving each other
    - c). Loving the Truth

## Study Questions - II Peter

1. How did Peter get his name and what does it mean?
2. What is the purpose for the writing of II Peter?
3. Give the only cure for false doctrine:
4. How did Holy men speak?
5. Give an example of Peter acknowledging Jesus as Saviour and Lord:
6. Where do we find a more sure Word of Prophecy?
7. What is the theme of II Peter?
8. Write the three major points of the outline:
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
9. Why do people become 'again entangled and overcome'?
10. The Lord has delayed His return because He is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
11. What is the next major event to take place?
12. What does *beware* mean?
13. How many spiritual things are provided for us to make it, and how are they obtained?
14. Name and describe one hard Scripture that you have learned and you can teach someone else:

## Quiz - II Peter

1. How did Peter get his name and what does it mean?
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BONUS: Write from memory verbatim 2 Peter 1:21.

# I John

## **Theme:**

Develop that practical godliness that produces perfect fellowship with God.

## **Why written:**

1. That the child of God might have fellowship with the Father and the Son, and with one another. (1:3)
  2. That the child of God may have fullness of joy. (1:4)
  3. That he may not sin. (2:1)
  4. That he may recognize the grounds of his assurance of eternal life. (5:13)

## **When written:**

Approximately A. D. 90

## **Where written:**

Probably at Ephesus where John lived and ministered after leaving Jerusalem

## **Contents**

- I. Introduction 1:1-4
- II. Fellowship with God 1:5 to 2:28
- III. Divine Sonship 2:29 to 3:24
- IV. The Spirit of Truth and the Spirit of Error 4:1-6
- V. God is Love 4:7-21
- VI. Faith 5:1-12
- VII. Conclusion: Christian Confidence 5:13-21

### **I. Introduction 1:1-4**

John begins this letter without introducing himself. Quite likely he was so familiar to his audience that he needed no introduction. He begins by saying that he was a personal witness of the "Word of life" (Jesus Christ), that he had personally heard Him, saw Him and handled Him. He declares this "eternal life to them that they may have fellowship with him and that their joy may be full.

### **II. Fellowship with God 1:5 to 2:28**

Here, John gives the evidence of those who truly have fellowship with God:

1. They walk in the light (1:5-7)

There are many false teachers who twist the scriptures and deceive many, but our conduct ultimately proves whether we live in the truth of God's Word and have the Spirit of God.

2. Repentance upon the awareness of sin (1:8)

They will not tolerate sin in their lives or treat it lightly, but will deal with it upon discovery.

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3. To be like Christ and obedient to His Word (2:2-6)

If we have fellowship with God, we will be an imitator and revealer of Christ and live a life of obedience to His Word as He was obedient to the Word of the Father.

4. They love the brethren (2:7-11)

They will keep this commandment that was given in the beginning and has been renewed up through the years.

5. They cannot have any love for the world (2:12-17)

They will hate the spirit of this world and sin which is the enemy of that Life that resides within them.

6. They have pure doctrine (2:18-28)

There are many false teachers with the spirit of antichrist, but those who have fellowship with God need not be led astray by the subtle and plausible arguments of those who promote error for they have the Spirit to lead them into all truth.

**III. Divine Sonship 2:29 to 3:24**

Here, John gives the evidence of those who have divine sonship:

1. A righteous walk (2:29 to 3:10)

The Christian is to show an absolute antagonism to sin because:

- a. His divine sonship and the desire to become like Jesus (2:29 to 3:1-3)
  - b. Sin is the transgression of the law of God – i.e. rebellion against God. (3:4)
  - c. Because of Christ's character and His atoning work for us. (v. 5-7)
  - d. Because of the diabolical nature of sin. (v. 8)
  - e. Because of the godly nature of the Christian life. (v. 9)
  - f. Because the final test as to whether we are children of God or children of the devil lies in our actions. (v. 10)
2. Love for the brethren (3:11-18)

**IV. The Spirit of Truth and the Spirit of Error 4:1-6**

**V. God is Love 4:7-21**

**VI. Faith 5:1-12**

**VII. Conclusion: Christian Confidence 5:13-21**

**Chapter 1**

We must live our lives in obedience to the Word of God (truth, "light") that our faith be not a mere profession and that we may have fellowship with the Father, the Son and with each other.

**Chapter 2**

Sin not. Keep His commandments. The proof or evidence that we know Him, that we are "in Him" is that we keep His commandments and love our brother. Love not the world. We have an unction or anointing that teaches us the truth and keeps us from error. Abide in Him.

**Chapter 3**

We are sons of God. We shall be like Him. Those who are sons of God and desire to be like Him, must purify themselves as He is pure. Jesus came that He might take away our sins. If we belong to God, we will love our brother and will not live under sin. If we are of the devil, we will sin. Believe on Jesus Christ and love your brother, not only in word, but also in deed.

**Chapter 4**

Try the spirits. Those that are of God will love the truth and confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. Love one another. As He is, so are we in this world. If we love God, we will also love each other.

**Evidences that we are in Him:**

1. We will have the love of God and manifest it toward one another. (v. 7-8)
2. We have received of the Spirit (v. 13)
3. We will confess that Jesus is the Son of God (v. 15)
4. We will "dwell in love" (v. 16)



**Perfect love:**

1. Gives us boldness in the day of judgment (v. 17)
2. Removes all fear (v. 18)

**Chapter 5**

If we believe that Jesus is the Christ, we are born of God. We know that we love the children of God when we love God and keep His commandments. This is the love of God that we keep His commandments. Those who are born of God overcome the world by faith. The Spirit is truth. There are three that bear record in heaven . . . and these three are one. There are three that bear witness in earth . . . and these three agree in one. The witness of God is greater than the witness of men. We that believe have this witness in us. If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us and if He hears us, we have what we ask for. There is a sin not unto death. All unrighteousness is sin. He that is born of God keeps himself and does not sin.

In I John, John

## II John

## III John

## Jude