James

1 James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus
Christ, to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:
Greetings.
2 Count it all joy, my brothers and sisters,
when you encounter trials of various kinds,
3 knowing that the testing of your faith
produces endurance.
4 And let endurance finish its work, so that
you may be mature and complete, lacking in
nothing.
5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God,
who gives generously to all without reproach,
and it will be given to him.
6 But let him ask in faith, without doubting, for
the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea,
driven and tossed by the wind.
7 For that person must not suppose that he will
receive anything from the Lord,
8 being double-minded, unstable in all his
ways.
9 Let the brother in humble circumstances
boast in his exaltation,
10 and the rich person in his humiliation,
because he will pass away like a flower of the
grass.
11 For the sun rises with scorching heat and
dries up the grass. Its flower falls, and its beauty
perishes. So too the rich person will wither in
the midst of his pursuits.

12 Blessed is the man who endures a trial, for
when he has stood the test, he will receive the
crown of life that he promised to those who love
him.
13 Let no one say when tempted, “I am tempted
by God,” for God cannot be tempted by evil, and
he himself tempts no one.
14 But each person is tempted when drawn
away and enticed by his own desire.
15 Then desire, when it has conceived, gives
birth to sin, and sin, when fully grown, gives
birth to death.
16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers
and sisters.

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is
from above, coming down from the Father of
lights, with whom there is no variation or
shadow caused by turning.
18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the
word of truth, so that we might be a kind of
firstfruits of his creation.

19 Know this, my beloved brothers and sisters:
let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak,
slow to anger,
20 for human anger does not produce the
righteousness of God.
21 Therefore put away all filthiness and
overflowing wickedness, and receive with
meekness the implanted word, which is able to
save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers
only, deceiving yourselves.

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and
not a doer, he is like a man looking at his natural
face in a mirror.
24 For he looks at himself and goes away, and
immediately forgets what he was like.
25 But the one who looks intently into the
perfect law, the law of liberty, and remains in it,
becoming not a forgetful hearer but a doer who
acts, will be blessed in what he does.
26 If anyone thinks he is religious but does not
bridle his tongue, deceiving his own heart
instead, his religion is worthless.
27 Pure and undefiled religion before God the
Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in
their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained by
the world.

2

1 My brothers and sisters, do not show
favoritism as you hold faith in our Lord Jesus
Christ, the Lord of glory.
2 For if a man wearing gold rings and splendid
clothing comes into your gathering, and a poor
man in filthy clothing also comes in,
3 and you pay special attention to the one
wearing the splendid clothing and say, “You sit
here in a good place,” while you say to the poor
man, “You stand, or sit there beneath my
footstool,”
4 have you not made distinctions among
yourselves and become judges with evil
thoughts?

5 Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters: has
not God chosen those who are poor in the
world's eyes to be rich in faith and heirs of the
kingdom he promised to those who love him?
6 But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not
the rich who oppress you and drag you into
court?
7 Is it not they who blaspheme the good name
invoked over you?
8 If you indeed fulfill the royal law according
to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as
yourself,” you do well.
9 But if you show favoritism, you commit sin
and are convicted by the law as transgressors.
10 For whoever keeps the whole law but
stumbles in one point has become guilty of all of
it.
11 For the one who said, “Do not commit
adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do
not commit adultery but do murder, you have
become a transgressor of the law.
12 Speak and act as those who are to be judged
by the law of liberty.
13 For judgment is without mercy to the one
who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over
judgment.
14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if
someone says he has faith but has no works?
Can that faith save him?
15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and
lacks daily food,
16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace;
be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them

what the body needs, what good is it?
17 So also faith, if it has no works, is dead by
itself.
18 But someone will say, “You have faith, and I
have works.” Show me your faith apart from
works, and I will show you my faith by my
works.
19 Do you believe that God is one? You do well.
Even the demons believe—and shudder.
20 But do you want to know, O foolish man,
that faith apart from works is useless?
21 Was not Abraham our father justified by
works when he offered his son Isaac on the
altar?
22 You see that faith was working together
with his works, and by works faith was made
complete,
23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says,
“Abraham believed God, and it was counted to
him as righteousness,” and he was called a
friend of God.
24 You see that a person is justified by works
and not by faith alone.
25 And likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute
also justified by works when she welcomed the
messengers and sent them out another way?
26 For just as the body without the spirit is
dead, so also faith without works is dead.

3

1 Not many of you should become teachers,
my brothers and sisters, knowing that we will
receive a stricter judgment.

2 For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone
does not stumble in speech, he is a mature man,
able also to bridle his whole body.
3 Now if we put bits into horses' mouths so that
they obey us, we also direct their whole bodies.
4 Look also at the ships: though they are so
large and driven by fierce winds, they are
steered by a very small rudder wherever the
pilot wishes.
5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it
boasts of great things. See how small a fire sets
so great a forest ablaze!
6 The tongue is a fire, a world of
unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our
members, staining the whole body, setting the
wheel of life on fire, and itself set on fire by hell.
7 For every kind of wild animal and bird, of
creeping creature and sea creature, is tamed
and has been tamed by humankind.
8 But no human being can tame the tongue. It
is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.
9 With it we bless the Lord and Father, and
with it we curse human beings who have been
made in the likeness of God.
10 From the same mouth come blessing and
cursing. My brothers and sisters, these things
ought not to be so.
11 Does a spring pour out fresh and bitter
water from the same opening?
12 Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters,
produce olives, or a grapevine figs? Neither can
salt water produce fresh water.
13 Who is wise and understanding among you?

Let him show his works by his good conduct in
the meekness of wisdom.
14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish
ambition in your hearts, do not boast and lie
against the truth.
15 This is not the wisdom that comes down
from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.
16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition are,
there are disorder and every evil practice.
17 But the wisdom from above is first pure,
then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of
mercy and good fruits, impartial and without
hypocrisy.
18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in
peace for those who make peace.

4

1 Where do wars and fights among you come
from? Do they not come from your pleasures
that wage war in your members?
2 You desire and do not have. You murder and
envy and cannot obtain. You fight and wage war.
You do not have because you do not ask.
3 You ask and do not receive because you ask
wrongly, to spend it on your pleasures.
4 Adulteresses! Do you not know that
friendship with the world is enmity with God?
Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the
world makes himself an enemy of God.
5 Or do you think that the Scripture speaks in
vain: “He yearns jealously for the spirit he made
to dwell in us”?

6 But he gives greater grace. Therefore it says,
“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the
humble.”
7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist
the devil, and he will flee from you.
8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to
you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify
your hearts, you double-minded.
9 Be distressed and mourn and weep. Let your
laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to
gloom.
10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he
will exalt you.
11 Do not speak against one another, brothers
and sisters. The one who speaks against a
brother or judges his brother speaks against the
law and judges the law. But if you judge the law,
you are not a doer of the law but a judge.
12 There is one lawgiver and judge, the one
who can save and destroy. But who are you to
judge your neighbor?
13 Come now, you who say, “Today or
tomorrow we will go to such and such a city,
spend a year there, trade, and make a profit.”
14 Yet you do not know what your life will be
tomorrow. For you are a mist that appears for a
little while and then vanishes.
15 Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills,
we will live and do this or that.”
16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance. All
such boasting is evil.
17 So for anyone who knows the right thing to
do and does not do it, it is sin.

5

1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl over the
miseries coming upon you.
2 Your wealth has rotted, and your clothes
have become moth-eaten.
3 Your gold and silver have corroded, and
their corrosion will be a witness against you and
eat your flesh like fire. You have stored up
treasure in the last days.
4 Look, the wages of the workers who
harvested your fields, which you have withheld,
are crying out, and the cries of the reapers have
reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.
5 You have lived on earth in luxury and
self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts
in a day of slaughter.
6 You have condemned and murdered the
righteous one. Does he not oppose you?
7 Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters,
until the coming of the Lord. See how the
farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth,
being patient for it until he receives the early
and late rains.
8 You too be patient and strengthen your
hearts, for the coming of the Lord has drawn
near.
9 Do not grumble against one another,
brothers and sisters, so that you may not be
judged. Look, the judge is standing at the doors.
10 Brothers and sisters, take the prophets who
spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of
suffering and patience.
11 Look, we count as blessed those who
endured. You have heard of Job's endurance and

have seen the outcome the Lord brought about,
for the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.
12 But above all, my brothers and sisters, do
not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by
any other oath. Let your “Yes” be yes and your
“No” be no, so that you may not fall under
judgment.
13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him
pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praises.
14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for
the elders of the church, and let them pray over
him, anointing him with oil in the name of the
Lord.
15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick
person, and the Lord will raise him up. And if
he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.
16 Therefore confess your sins to one another
and pray for one another, so that you may be
healed. The effective prayer of a righteous
person has great power.
17 Elijah was a human being with a nature like
ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not
rain, and it did not rain on the land for three
years and six months.
18 Then he prayed again, and heaven gave
rain, and the earth produced its fruit.
19 My brothers and sisters, if anyone among
you wanders from the truth and someone turns
him back,
20 let him know that whoever turns a sinner
back from the error of his way will save his soul
from death and cover a multitude of sins.

BibliaTodo New Translation

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Language: English

Holy Bible, BibliaTodo New Translation (BTNT). Published by BibliaTodo Bible Society, an imprint of BibliaTodo LLC.
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2026-11-06

PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 6 Nov 2026 from source files dated 6 Nov 2026
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