

**JAMES 1-2**  
**Works are the Fruit of Faith**  
**STUDY AHEAD**

Paul has made the strong case that salvation is not based on works, but on the grace of God. So, the question is, what is the place of “good works” in Christian theology? James will make the case that works are the *fruit* of salvation, not the *root*. Read the following key passages as you study ahead in the book of James.

Note: James was the human ‘1/2’ brother of Jesus, born of Joseph and Mary. He followed Jesus around and listened to Him teach, but didn’t believe in Jesus until after the resurrection. Notice similarities between James’ style of exhorting his followers, and Jesus style. Many have noted how the Book of James parallels in many ways Jesus’ famous Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), both in style and content.

**1:1-4** Based on his introduction, what do you think the recipients were facing when James wrote this letter? See also 1:12.

**1:5-8** What might be the connection between trials (1-4) and asking God for wisdom (5-8)?

**1:9-11** James has a lot to say about rich/poor issues in the early church. As you read James this week, see if you can pick out all the places he addresses this.

**1:13-15** What does this passage teach us about how sin works?

**1:21-25** Compare this passage to Matthew 7:24-27. What are they both saying?

**2:14-26** This is THE key passage on the relationship between “faith and works.” Study it carefully to see what you can learn.