

EPISTLE OF STRAW OR EPISTLE OF STRENGTH?

James 1:1 // July 20, 2025 PM

I. Its *influential penmen* warrants our utmost attention and affection.

II. Its *inescapable predicament* warrants our utmost attention and affection.

III. Its *indispensable point* warrants our utmost attention and affection.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. What did Luther think about the letter of James? Do you agree with him? Why, or why not?
2. Who is the James that wrote this letter? What do we learn about him from the rest of the New Testament (Mk. 6:3; Jn. 7:3-5; Acts 12:17, 15:13, 21:18; 1 Cor. 15:7; Gal. 1:19, 2:9, 12)?
3. Why does James address the church as exiled Israel? Is this language to be understood literally, figuratively, or both?
4. What trials and temptations was the church facing that James wrote to? How does the church today face similar struggles?
5. How does James describe himself in his greeting? Is “servant” the best word to translate the Greek?
6. How does slavery to God summarize the whole point of the book and provide the fundamental solution to every problem facing the first century church and us today?
7. How is belonging entirely to God actually true freedom?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. How does James’ salutation serve as a fitting summary of his entire letter and beckon me to read it?
2. When it comes to my self-perception, do I consider myself “a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ”? What does my life say?
3. What am I most looking forward to learning from James, and what am I hoping God will do in my life and church through this series?