

THE BOOK OF JAMES: RATED M FOR MATURE

Part 1: Intro/Joy In The Troubles

JAMES: AN INTRODUCTION

- ❖ He was an important player in the development of the early church
 - ◆ The oldest half brother of Jesus
 - ◆ Saw Jesus after the resurrection and was in the upper room at Pentecost
 - ◆ Key leader of believers at Jerusalem - some believe the pastor
 - ◆ His letter to the Jews, a practical book, called the Proverbs of the New Testament
 - ◆ James was martyred for his faith in 62AD

STRAIGHT FROM THE START (*James 1:1-4 NKJV*)

- ❖ Count it all joy in the difficulties and tough times
 - ◆ A position we adopt not a feeling we follow
 - ◆ Count - to regard or consider
- ❖ Why do this?
 - ◆ Ultimately it positions us better to win in the end (*Nehemiah 8:10 NKJV*)
- ❖ This is not whistling through the graveyard
 - ◆ Joy because I believe I am coming through this trial
 - ◆ Joy because with God's help I will be standing in the end (*2 Timothy 4:14-18 NKJV*)
 - ◆ Joy because it's working good things in me

TWO APPROACHES TO TRIALS

- ❖ We're going down (*Mark 4:35-40 NKJV*)
 - ◆ They were following the Lord's plan to go to the other side
 - ◆ They fall into a bad storm
 - ◆ Jesus' disciples accuse Him of not caring - but He was asleep
 - ◆ Jesus rebuked the storm
 - ◆ Jesus challenged the disciples on why so much fear and little faith
- ❖ We are praising God
 - ◆ Paul and Silas sent by God into the area (*Acts 16:9-10 NKJV*)
 - ◆ Persecuted for delivering a demon possessed girl (*Acts 16:22-26 NKJV*)
 - ◆ Prayed and praised God - loud enough for others to hear
 - ◆ Had an earthquake that actually was an act of God