

JAMES

(BACKGROUND)

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

THE UNBELIEVER—You would think that someone raised as a half-brother of Jesus, the Son of God, would be among the first to believe. But James, like the rest of the Lord’s brothers and sisters, seemed disconnected to the earthly Jesus. James was not even mentioned as being present at His crucifixion. (**John 7:1-5, fn 7:3-5, Mark 3:20, 21, fn 3:21[1st], fn 3:21[2nd], Mark 6:1-5, fn 6:4, John 19:25-27, fn 19:25-27, fn 19:27, Jude i:1, fn 1:1[2nd]**) *Why is it usually easier for parents to witness to siblings than for siblings to witness to each other? How could you effectively share Christ with your children? How could you share with your siblings?*

THE BELIEVER—Like Thomas, the apostle, it took a special visit by the resurrected Christ for James to believe. Later tongues of fire settled on him at Pentecost, and the Holy Spirit led him to pastor the Jerusalem church and deliver the ruling of the Jerusalem council. (**John 20:24-29, I Corinthians 15:3-7, fn 15:7, Acts 1:12-14, fn 1:14, Acts 2:1-4, fn 2:3, 4, Acts 15:12-21, fn 15:13, fn 15:16-18**) *How were you saved?*

THE AUTHOR—As one of the first of the epistles written, the book of James is written in proverbial style, and his letter is among the better known and most often most quoted of the New Testament books. Douglas Moo, [The Letter of James](#), p. 1. “James offers a larger number of similarities to the Sermon on the Mount than any other book in the New Testament.” (See chart “Faith That Works” in James, Chapter 5.) James’ non-ritualistic teaching and his writing of genuine faith may have led him to be tried before the Sanhedrin and condemned to death as a breaker of the law. See William Whiston, [Josephus, The Complete Works](#), p. 645. (See chart “Faith That Works”) and compare **James 1:2** to **Matthew 5:10-12**. Read “The Blueprint” located in the background to James before Chapter 1. See **footnote James 1:1, James 5:20, fn 5:20**) *Why is religious legalism so cruel?*

Check up—How is your relationship with your neighbor, your spouse, and your Lord. Do your actions show that you are being led by the Holy Spirit?

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