**The Epistle of James**

**OVERVIEW**

James, the brother of Jesus, writes this letter less than 50 years after Jesus left the earth. It may be the first letter written to the church. Scholars indicate that this letter is written to Christians as a whole rather than to specific congregations.

James is very emphatic in his teaching and stresses the importance of a devout, honest lifestyle that demonstrates the love of Christ. His declaration that “faith without works is dead” has been one of the most debated and perhaps, misunderstood concepts in the Church. From Martin Luther to Bible scholars today, the argument has focused on how the idea of faith through grace rather than evidence can be reconciled. Dying as a martyr, James spoke fervently on the ethics of our faith and living rather than just hearing what is right.

**Key Terms**

Elders

Faith

Joy

Wisdom

Words

**Notes**

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