

T H E B O O K O F

JAMES

F A I T H I N M O T I O N

- “James is an intensely practical manual on the outworking of true faith in everyday life. It explores Christian conduct from several perspectives and shifts abruptly from topic to topic.

In a Nutshell

- Faith perseveres under trials, resists temptation, responds to the Word, overcomes prejudice, produces good works, controls the tongue, manifests wisdom, submits to God rather than worldly pleasures, depends on God rather than wealth, and waits patiently for the return of the Lord.

In a Nutshell

- Biblical faith moves from assent to actions, from words to works.” **Talk Thru the New Testament**, pg. 164.

In a Nutshell

James, the half-brother of Jesus (Matt. 15:33; Mark 3:18; Gal. 1:19)

- not a believer during Jesus' ministry, at least not early on
- probably the second child of Mary and therefore, Jesus closest sibling
- Jesus appeared to him after His resurrection. (1 Cor. 15:7)

The Author

- He was part of the 120 who waited for the Holy Spirit in the upper room (Acts 1:14)
- He became a prominent leader of the Church in Jerusalem (Acts 12:17; 15:13-21; 21:18; Gal. 2:9, 12)
- Known as “camel knees” for the calluses he developed from his devotion to prayer
- Died a martyr’s death shortly before fall of Jerusalem

The Author

- Jewish Christians who were scattered after the persecution associated with the stoning of Stephen (Acts 8:1)
- They were driven out with zealous spirits as they shared the gospel as they left home, property and kin. (Acts 8:4)
- Probably settled in the region of Syria
- Had the familiarity of synagogue and other Jews—converted and non-converted

The Audience

- Had to re-establish their homes, work, and circle of friendships.
- The witness of the book is that James knew this audience, was respected by them, and could command them to obey spiritual truth.
- By character, these were not people dealing with overt worldly sin, but were succumbing to impatience, bitterness, materialism, disunity, and spiritual apathy.

The Audience

James is called the “Proverbs of the New Testament.” James was obviously influenced by Proverbs of the Old Testament, the exhortative Psalms and the Sermon on the Mount. James writes with terse, pointed exhortations that call his audience to obedience. The Book only references the person of Jesus on a couple occasions and does not develop any deep or new theological ground.

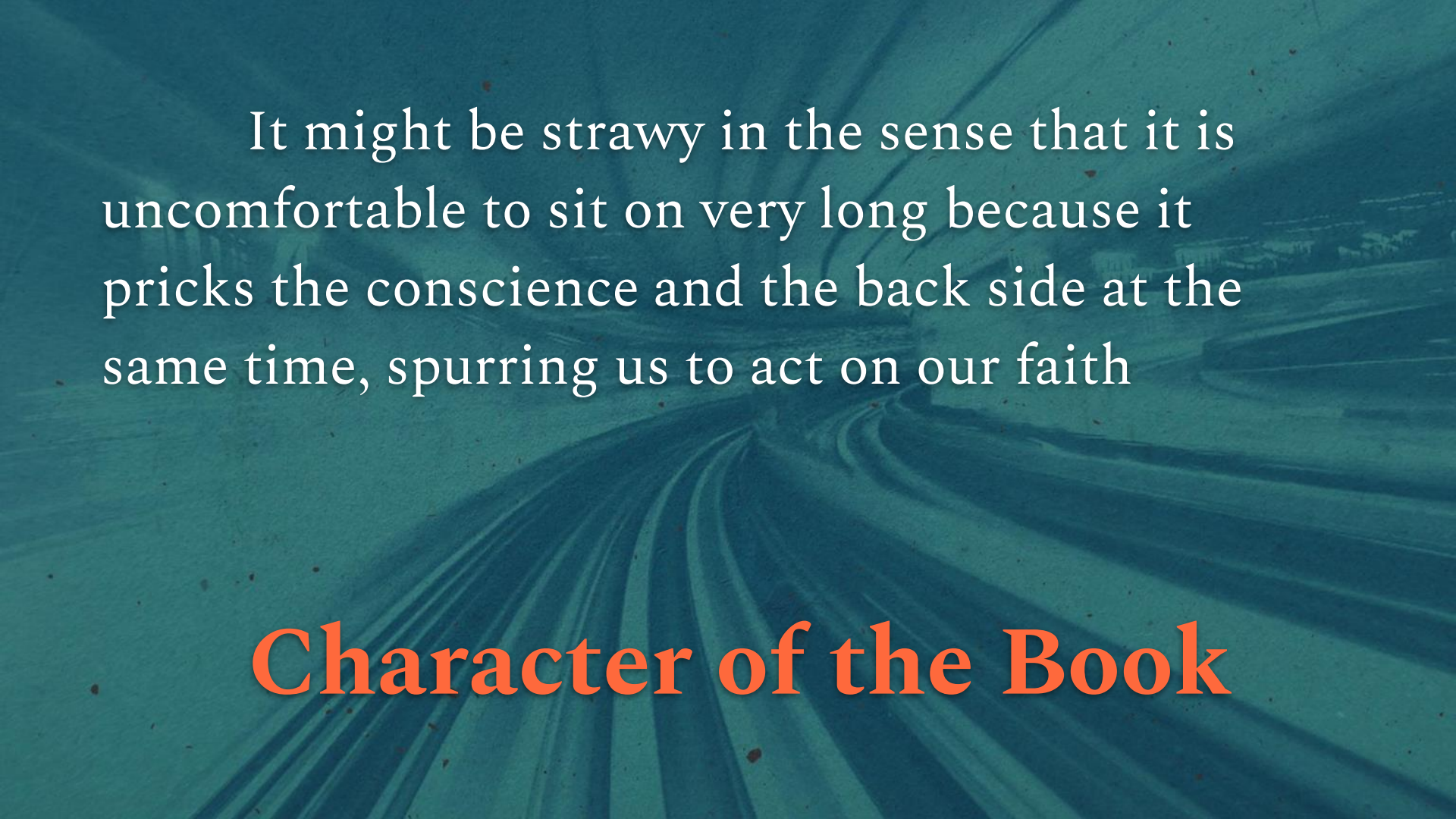
Character of the Book

That and the fact that James introduces the idea that faith must have works and seems to be an apparent contradiction to Paul's teaching on justification, caused Martin Luther to declare the book to be "a right strawy epistle". He did not believe the book to be inspired.

Character of the Book

It might be strawy in the sense that it is uncomfortable to sit on very long because it pricks the conscience and the back side at the same time, spurring us to act on our faith

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Character of the Book

COMMITMENT
Belief

CONFESSION
Baptism

CONSECRATION
Discipleship

CHARACTER
Trials

COMPLETED
FAITH



CONTACT WITH UNBELIEVERS

COMMUNION WITH CHRIST & HIS CHURCH

The Faith Building Process

Consider it all joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

James 1:2-3

And **let** endurance **have** its perfect result,
that you may be perfect [mature] and
complete, lacking in nothing.

James 1:4

Outline

Focus	Character of Faith					Control of Faith		Conflicts of Faith		Consummation of Faith		
	1					2	3		4	5:6	5:7	5:20
D I V I S I O N S	Persevering under Trials	Progress of Temptation	Planting the Word	Personal Favoritism	Performance of Faith	Power of the Tongue	Portrait of Pure Wisdom		Perversity of Pleasures	Pride of the Rich	Patient Endurance	Prayer and Restoration
	1:1-12	1:13-18	1:19-27	2:1-13	2:14-26	3:1	3:12	3:13 3:18	4:1 4:12	4:13 5:6	5:7 5:12	5:13 5:20
T O P I C S	Will	Word	Works	Words	Wisdom	Worldliness	Wealth	Wait	Wholeness			
	Endurance	Efficacy		Exposition		Exhortation		Encouragement				
	Resisting	Responding		Restraining		Rebuking		Remaining				
	"...be quick to hear..."				"slow to speak..."		"and slow to anger" (1:19)					
Location	Probably Jerusalem											
Time	Probably A.D. 46-49											