

The Letter of James

1. Opening Address (1:1 - 2)

2. Encouragement during trial (1:2 - 27)

- A. Patience in Trials and Temptations (1:2 - 15)
- B. Being Born in the Word (1:16 - 25)
- C. True Religion (1:26 - 27)

3. Discussion of Themes

- A. Partiality and the Law of Charity (2:1 - 3)
- B. Faith and Works (2:14 - 26)

C. Taming the Tongue (3:1 - 12)



D. Wisdom and Worldliness (3:13 - 4:17)

E. The Coming of the Lord (5:1 - 12)

F. Anointing and Prayer for the Sick (5:13 - 18)

4. Conclusion (5:19 - 20)

James 4: 2-3 - PRAYER BEING ANSWERED

2737 "You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions." If we ask with a divided heart, we are "adulterers"; God cannot answer us, for he desires our well-being, our life. "Or do you suppose that it is in vain that the scripture says, 'He yearns jealously over the spirit which he has made to dwell in us?'" That our God is "jealous" for us is the sign of how true his love is. If we enter into the desire of his Spirit, we shall be heard.

Do not be troubled if you do not immediately receive from God what you ask him; for he desires to do something even greater for you, while you cling to him in prayer. (Evagrius Ponticus)

God wills that our desire should be exercised in prayer, that we may be able to receive what he is prepared to give. (St. Augustine)

James 4:11 - OFFENSES AGAINST TRUTH

2477 Respect for the reputation of persons forbids every attitude and word likely to cause them unjust injury.²⁷⁸ He becomes guilty:

- of rash judgment who, even tacitly, assumes as true, without sufficient foundation, the moral fault of a neighbor
- of detraction who, without objectively valid reason, discloses another's faults and failings to persons who did not know them
- of calumny who, by remarks contrary to the truth, harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgments concerning them.

