

# **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 (2:1 - 13)**

- 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 1:13 AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION

**2846** This petition goes to the root of the preceding one, for our sins result from our consenting to temptation; we therefore ask our Father not to "lead" us into temptation. It is difficult to translate the Greek verb used by a single English word: the Greek means both "do not allow us to enter into temptation" and "do not let us yield to temptation." "God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one";<sup>151</sup> on the contrary, he wants to set us free from evil. We ask him not to allow us to take the way that leads to sin. We are engaged in the battle "between flesh and spirit"; this petition implores the Spirit of discernment and strength.

**2847** The Holy Spirit makes us *discern* between trials, which are necessary for the growth of the inner man, and temptation, which leads to sin and death. We must also discern between being tempted and consenting to temptation. Finally, discernment unmasks the lie of temptation, whose object appears to be good, a "delight to the eyes" and desirable, when in reality its fruit is death.

God does not want to impose the good, but wants free beings. . . . There is a certain usefulness to temptation. No one but God knows what our soul has received from him, not even we ourselves. But temptation reveals it in order to teach us to know ourselves, and in this way we discover our evil inclinations and are obliged to give thanks for the goods that temptation has revealed to us.

## James 1:17 God alone IS

**212** Over the centuries, Israel's faith was able to manifest and deepen realization of the riches contained in the revelation of the divine name. God is unique; there are no other gods besides him. He transcends the world and history. He made heaven and earth: "They will perish, but you endure; they will all wear out like a garment. . . .but you are the same, and your years have no end." In God "there is no variation or shadow due to change." God is "HE WHO IS", from everlasting to everlasting, and as such remains ever faithful to himself and to his promises.

## James 1:27 THE FAMILY AND SOCIETY

**2208** The family should live in such a way that its members learn to care and take responsibility for the young, the old, the sick, the handicapped, and the poor. There are many families who are at times incapable of providing this help. It devolves then on other persons, other families, and, in a subsidiary way, society to provide for their needs: "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained from the world."