

Faithfulness in the Face of Trials ...



Studies in the books of

Hebrews

James

1st & 2nd Peter

New Testament Study Commentary - Part 7

Study Series prepared by Graeme Offer

Putting our Faith into Practice ...

Studies in the book of

James

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Foreword

James is a very practical book that gives us much instruction on dealing with the circumstances that we find in our lives as we live in the real world. The underlying theme of the book is not our individual relationship with God, but rather our relationships with our fellow brethren in the church.

Throughout the studies, I have mostly quoted from the New International Version (NIV) and the New King James Version (NKJV), and have attributed the quotations accordingly. Occasionally, I have used a word or two from the King James Version (KJV) or other translations where those versions (in my opinion) better describe the point the author is trying to get across. On occasions where quotations appear that are not referenced, they are my paraphrase of what the verse says, and may or may not bear similarity to recognized translations.

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My usual teaching style is to hand out the outline for each lesson at the start of the lesson. I will often discuss last week's homework, or the background / introduction section as a way of getting the class "into gear" whilst I am handing out the outline at the start. The questions on the outline are designed to help us come to a grasp of the main issues that Paul wants the readers to understand, and to form an outline of the class. They are not designed to identify the micro-issues, although the class discussion may get into some of these. I hand out the notes at the end of the class. They are designed to answer all of the questions that were raised in the outline sheet – often in more detail than what was covered in the class. I almost never hand out the notes at the start of the class, and I have found that where I have done that it always results in people reading what is on the page and feeding that back during the class without really thinking about or sometimes even comprehending what is there. The notes also serve the very useful purposes of allowing those who may miss one of the classes to *catch up*, as well as providing a review of the material covered for those who were present.

I **always** set homework, and that includes a few thought-provoking questions that go beyond the things that we have covered in the class.

My prayer is that those who use this material will find it exciting, edifying, encouraging, and relevant to our present situation as together we consider some of the practicalities of the gospel and the implications and relevance of God's grace to our walk with God and our daily struggles to live the christian life.

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