



Worship Series Summary

Every January we gather hope and expectation for the coming year. We resolve, “This is the year I will lose that extra weight.” We resolve, “This is the year I will complete that project.” We resolve, “This year will be different. I will be different.” We make our resolutions and we set our course, hoping the New Year will be better than the last.

For most of us, resolutions become a stumbling block or a reminder of our weaknesses. What if there is a better approach to the New Year and to resolutions?

James 1:17- 18, *“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of His creation.”*

God’s greatest gift, Jesus Christ has made every day a new day. In Him we experience a new year every day. We don’t have to hope for the best, we have been given the best. And in Jesus Christ we have been given the freedom to follow Him where he leads.

This January we will be learning much about Jesus, His family, and resolutions through James. Why James?

James teaches us what’s most important to Jesus. James reveals the priorities of Jesus’ family. James helps us discover resolutions worthy of our attention. In Christ, we resolve because we are in His family and know whom to follow.

“Connecting, Caring, and Sharing in Christ”

Notes on James

(Based upon the Lutheran Study Bible, CPH, pg. 2134)

- ✚ **c AD 30, James**—Half-brother of Jesus who also had sisters and other brothers, son of Joseph and Mary, raised in the village of Nazareth (Matthew 13: 55, Mark 6:3)
- ✚ **c AD 30, James** —Expressed opposition to Jesus and His teachings. Along with Mary and family members, tried to take charge of Jesus. (Mark 3: 21-34)
- ✚ **c AD 32, James**—One of Jesus’ brothers who did not believe in him. James and his brothers tried to convince Jesus to fulfill the Jewish law of attending the Feast of Booths (Tabernacles) regardless of the danger. (John 7: 1-5)
- ✚ **c AD 33, James**—According to the Apostle Paul, one of the first disciples to whom Jesus appeared following His resurrection. Only one of two people named by Paul, the other being Cephas (Peter), indicating James’ prominence and credibility within the Christianity. (1 Corinthians 15:7)
- ✚ **c AD 33, James**—One of the faithful gathered in Jerusalem awaiting the sending of the Holy Spirit and tasked with selecting a replacement for Judas. (Acts 1: 14)
- ✚ **c AD 38, James**—Singled out by Paul as the only one with whom he met with in Jerusalem after his conversion. (Galatians 1: 19)
- ✚ **c AD 44, James**—Mentioned specifically by Peter as the one to whom they should get the message of his release, identifying James as a leader in the Jerusalem Church. (Acts 12: 17)
- ✚ **c AD 49, James**—Identified as one of the pillars of the Church in Jerusalem alongside of Peter and John who encouraged Paul in his work among the Gentiles. (Galatians 2: 1-12)
- ✚ **c AD 49, James**—The voice of authority at the first Jerusalem Council of the Church, culminating in direction for the practices of the Gentile mission work. (Acts 15: 1-20)
- ✚ **c AD 55, James**—Leader of the Jerusalem Church, along with the elders, who heard Paul’s final report on mission work among Gentiles before his arrest. (Acts 21: 18-26)