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# The Tradition of James

## Chapter One

James, a bondservant of Godde and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which in the Dispersion: Greetings.

<sup>2</sup>Consider it pure joy, my sisters and brothers, whenever you fall into various temptations, <sup>3</sup>knowing that the testing of your trust produces endurance. <sup>4</sup>Let endurance complete its perfect work, so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <sup>5</sup>But if any of you lacks Wisdom, ask Godde, who gives to all liberally and without criticism; and it will be given to them. <sup>6</sup>But they should ask in trust, never doubting, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>That person shouldn't think that they'll receive anything from the Lady. <sup>8</sup>They're double-minded, unstable in all their ways.

<sup>9</sup>Instead, the sister or brother in humble circumstances should boast in their high position, <sup>10</sup>and the one who is rich, in their humiliation, because they'll disappear like a wild flower. <sup>11</sup>The sun rises with the scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the one who is rich will fade away in their pursuits.

<sup>12</sup>Blessed is the one who endures temptation, because when they've been approved, they'll receive the crown of life which the Lady promised to those who love her. <sup>13</sup>When tempted, no one should say, "I'm tempted by Godde," because Godde can't be tempted by evil, nor does she tempt anyone. <sup>14</sup>But each one is tempted by their own desire, lured away and enticed. <sup>15</sup>Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to wrongdoing; and when it's fully grown, the wrongdoing gives birth to death.

<sup>16</sup>Don't be deceived, my beloved sisters and brothers. <sup>17</sup>Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Mother of lights, who doesn't change like moving shadows. <sup>18</sup>Of her own will she gave birth to us by the message of truth, so that we might be a kind of first fruits of her creatures.

<sup>19</sup>Know this, my beloved sisters and brothers: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger, <sup>20</sup>because human anger doesn't produce Godde's justice. <sup>21</sup>So put away all filthiness and remaining evil. Humbly receive the message planted in you, which can give life to your souls.

<sup>22</sup>Don't deceive yourselves by just listening to the message, but do it. <sup>23</sup>If anyone just listens without doing it, they're like someone who looks at their face in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>they see themselves and go away, immediately forgetting what they look like. <sup>25</sup>But whoever looks into the perfect Torah of freedom and continues in it – not just listening and then forgetting, but doing the deed – they'll be blessed in what they do.

<sup>26</sup>If anyone considers themselves to be religious but doesn't bridle their tongue, they're deceived; their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>This is pure and undefiled religion before our Godde and Mother: to visit the orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep unstained by the world.

## Chapter Two

My sisters and brothers, those who trust in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ shouldn't show favoritism. <sup>2</sup>If someone with a gold ring and fine clothes comes into your synagogue, and someone who is poor in filthy clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you look to the one wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but tell the one who's poor, "Stand there" or "Sit at my feet," <sup>4</sup>haven't you shown favoritism among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

<sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved sisters and brothers! Didn't Godde choose those who are poor in this world to be rich in trust, heirs of the reign which she promised to those who love her? <sup>6</sup>But you've dishonored the

one who's poor. Don't those who are rich oppress you and drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Don't they slander the good name by which you were called? <sup>8</sup>If you keep the royal Torah according to the Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you're doing well. <sup>9</sup>But if you show favoritism, you do wrong and are convicted by the Torah as wrongdoers. <sup>10</sup>Whoever keeps the whole Torah but stumbles in one point is guilty of breaking all of it. <sup>11</sup>The one who said, "Do not be unfaithful," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you're not unfaithful but do murder you've broken the Torah. <sup>12</sup>Speak and act as people who will be judged by the Torah of freedom, <sup>13</sup>because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my sisters and brothers, if someone says they have trust, but they have no deeds? Can trust give them life? <sup>15</sup>If a sister or brother is naked and hungry, <sup>16</sup>and one of you tells them, "Go in peace, stay warmed and well fed," but doesn't give them what their body needs, what good is it? <sup>17</sup>In the same way trust by itself, if it has no deeds, is dead.

<sup>18</sup>But someone will say, "You have trust, and I have deeds." Show me your trust without deeds, and by my deeds I'll show you my trust. <sup>19</sup>You believe that Godde is one. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder. <sup>20</sup>But do you want proof, you airhead, that trust apart from deeds is useless? <sup>21</sup>Weren't our ancestors Sarah and Abraham justified by deeds when they offered their son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup>You see that trust and deeds worked together, by deeds trust was perfected, <sup>23</sup>and the Scripture was fulfilled:

"Sarah and Abraham trusted Godde,  
and they were counted as just,"

and they were called Godde's friends. <sup>24</sup>You see that a person is justified by deeds and not by trust alone. <sup>25</sup>In the same way, Rahab the sex worker was justified by deeds too, in that she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by a different way. <sup>26</sup>As the body without the spirit is dead, trust without deeds is dead too.

### Chapter Three

My sisters and brothers, not many of you should be teachers, because you know that we'll be judged more strictly. <sup>2</sup>All of us make mistakes. If anyone doesn't make a mistake in what they say, they're perfect, able to keep the whole body in check. <sup>3</sup>We put bits into horses' mouths to make them obey us, and we guide their whole body. <sup>4</sup>Look at ships too. Though they're so big and are driven by fierce winds, they're steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. <sup>5</sup>In the same way, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it boasts of great things.

Look at how a small fire can spread to a large forest! <sup>6</sup>The tongue is a fire. It becomes a world of injustice among the parts of our body. It stains the whole body and sets fire to the cycle of nature by the burning trash heap. <sup>7</sup>Every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and sea creature can be tamed and has been tamed by humankind. <sup>8</sup>But nobody can tame the tongue. It's a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we praise our Mother the Lady, and with it we curse people who are made in Godde's image. <sup>10</sup>Out of the same mouth comes praise and cursing. My sisters and brothers, it shouldn't be this way! <sup>11</sup>Does a spring pour out fresh and bitter water from the same opening? <sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree, my sisters and brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salty spring produce fresh water.

<sup>13</sup>Who among you is wise and understanding? Let them show by their good conduct that their deeds are done in the gentleness that comes from Wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter jealousy and selfishness in your heart, don't boast and deny the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such "wisdom" doesn't come from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. <sup>16</sup>Where there's jealousy and selfishness, there's confusion and every evil practice. <sup>17</sup>But the Wisdom that's from above is first pure, then peaceful, gentle, flexible, full of mercy and good fruits, without favoritism and hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>Now the fruit of justice is sown in peace by those who make peace.

## Chapter Four

Where do your wars and disputes come from? Don't they come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something that you don't have, so you kill. You covet but can't get what you want, so you fight and wage war. You don't have because you don't ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask but don't receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. <sup>4</sup>You unfaithful people, don't you know that friendship with the world is enmity with Godde? So whoever wants to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of Godde. <sup>5</sup>Or do you think that the Scripture says without reason that Godde yearns jealously for the spirit living in us? <sup>6</sup>But she gives more grace. So it says:

“Godde resists those who are proud,  
but gives grace to those who are humble.”

<sup>7</sup>So defer to Godde. Resist the devil, and it will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw near to Godde, and she'll draw near to you. Wash your hands, you who do wrong, and purify your hearts, you who are double-minded. <sup>9</sup>Grieve, mourn, and weep! Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup>Humble yourselves before the Lady, and she'll lift you up.

<sup>11</sup>Don't criticize each other, sisters and brothers. Whoever criticizes and judges their sister or brother criticizes and judges the Torah. But if you judge the Torah, you're not a doer of the Torah, but a judge. <sup>12</sup>There's only one lawgiver and judge who can give life and destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

<sup>13</sup>Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we'll go into this or that city, spend a year there, do business, and make a profit.” <sup>14</sup>You don't even know what your life will be like tomorrow. What is your life? You're a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. <sup>15</sup>Instead you should say, “If the Lady is willing, we'll live and do this or that.” <sup>16</sup>As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup>So to the one who knows the right thing to do but doesn't do it – to them it's wrong.

## Chapter Five

Come now, you who are rich, weep and howl because of the miseries that await you. <sup>2</sup>Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver have rusted. Their rust will testify against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You've hoarded your treasure in the last days. <sup>4</sup>Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields cry out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Commanding Lady. <sup>5</sup>You've lived on the earth in luxury and pleasure. You've fattened your hearts in the day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup>You've condemned and murdered the one who is just, who didn't resist you.

<sup>7</sup>So be patient, sisters and brothers, until the Lord's coming. Look at how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, patiently waiting until it receives the early and late rains. <sup>8</sup>You be patient too. Take heart, because the Lord's coming is near. <sup>9</sup>Don't complain to each other, sisters and brothers, so that you won't be judged. Look, the judge stands at the door! <sup>10</sup>Sisters and brothers, as an example of suffering and of patience, consider the prophets who spoke in the Lady's name. <sup>11</sup>Look, we call blessed those who endured. You've heard of Job's endurance and have seen the outcome in the Lady. The Lady is full of compassion and mercy.

<sup>12</sup>But above all things, my sisters and brothers, don't promise – not by heaven, nor by the earth, nor by any other thing. But let your “Yes” be “Yes” and your “No” be “No.” Otherwise, you'll be condemned.

<sup>13</sup>Is anyone among you suffering? Let them pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let them sing praises. <sup>14</sup>Is anyone among you sick? Let them call for the community's presbyters to pray over them, anointing them with oil in the Lady's name. <sup>15</sup>The trusting prayer will heal the one who's sick, and the Lady will raise

them up. If they've done wrong, they'll be forgiven. <sup>16</sup>Confess your wrongs to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a just person is powerful and effective. <sup>17</sup>Elijah was a human being like us. He prayed earnestly that it wouldn't rain, and it didn't rain on the earth for three years and six months. <sup>18</sup>He prayed again, the sky poured rain, and the earth yielded its fruit.

<sup>19</sup>My sisters and brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone turns them back, <sup>20</sup>let them know that whoever turns a wrongdoer from the error of their ways will rescue a soul from death and will cover many wrongs.