

## INTRODUCTION

### REVIEW

(1:1) James greets Jewish Christians dispersed (by the Acts 8:1 persecution)

We should welcome trials, because tested faith yields patience which yields endurance which yields maturity, if we pray for wisdom (1:2–8)

Rich & poor believers should appreciate God seeking for us to become approved through trial (not that He tempts, but only gives good gifts like regeneration) (1:9–18)

We ought to be Swift to Hear, Slow to Speak, Slow to Wrath, because man's wrath does not produce God's righteousness (1:19f.)

Swift to Hear means: We ought to be doers, not just hearers (1:21ff.)

Swift to Hear means: We ought not be partial, but to show mercy that we may be shown mercy when we are judged by the perfect law of liberty (2:1–13)

### NEW EXPOSITION:

**James 2:14 Unapplied faith is useless in the Christian life, because deliverance [from trials] requires application of believed truth**

James 2:14a should not be translated *claims to have faith*. Why not?

James 2:14b is a leading question: *Faith cannot deliver him, can it?*

James speaks of a bel being delivered from the midst of a trial, not saved from hell

**Two views of *faith without works***

**1. Subtraction View (Faith minus works = something less than faith)**

A. This is the common view

B. It views *faith w/o works* as one would view *a bicycle w/o a frame*

A bicycle without a frame does not go anywhere

Subtraction view can make sense of 2:14b (but the wrong sense)

**2. Addition View (Faith plus no works still = faith)**

A. This is an uncommon view (but correct)

B. It views *faith w/o works* as one would view *a bicycle w/o a rider*

A bicycle without a rider does not go anywhere

Addition view makes sense of 2:14b (the right sense)

**Contrasting the two models**

## **Arguing against the subtraction view from the outline of James**

### **Body: Swift to Hear, Slow to Speak, Slow to Wrath**

- 1. Swift to Hear means: Be doers of word, not just self-deceived hearers**

**In other words: You hear the word: add application**

- 2. Swift to Hear means: Do not show partiality, but show mercy that mercy may be shown**

**In other words: You believe the word: add application**

- 3. Swift to Hear means: Apply the truth you have believed**

**In other words: You believe the word: add application**

## **CONCLUSION**