trouble, Luther." He said, "You could get ahead in the Church;
you could have a fine position in the Church; nothing for you to
worry about. All you have to do is retract these things---take
them back." "Well," Luther said,"I'll be only too glad to take
them back if they're wrong, but" he said,"show me from the Bible
that they're wrong." Well, Cajetan said, "They
the authority of the Pope." He said, "That's enough, the Pope
has said you take them back." "Well," Luther said, "if the Word
of God shows anything I said is wrong, I'll gladly take it back;
but," he said, "I just can't take it back because somebody says
to. If it's in the Word of God, I've got to stand on it.

You know, there are people today who try to make out that
Luther did not hold to the absolute infallibility of the Word of
God. They quote that he said "The book of James is an epistle
of straw." Once he said, "The book of James, I throw it in the
Tiber." And so they say Luther didn't believe in the whole Bible,
like fundamentalists do today." Butthe fact of the matter is that
Martin Luther said the Bible was the only infallibile source of
doctrine and he was ready to stand on every word of it. And Luther
translated the Bible into German, and he kept working on his trans-
lation, and he issued edition after edition of it all the rest of
his life, and every single edition included the Book of James. So
when he said that about James, what he meant was this: If you're
going to discuss the basic things of the gospel, don't go to James.
For them, James is an epistle of straw; you want the strong meat
of Romans, Galatians, these books or that; but after you get that,
for guidance in the Christian life you'll find plenty of it in
James. And Luther worked on the translation of James and he walways
included it in every edition of his Bible that he put out.