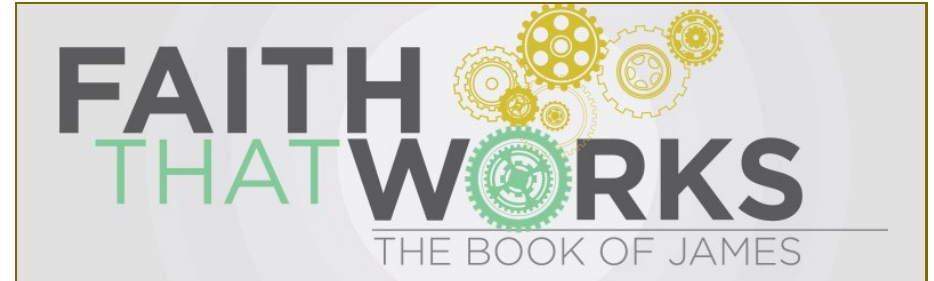


Reflection Questions: How well do my actions mirror the faith that I say I believe? What has God taught me through trials and difficulties? Am I a better learner in good times or bad times? Why? Do my words bring unity and peace or cause harm and division?

How can we pray for one another and our church this week?



#1 Overview

Sermon
Notes

January 6, 2019

1. Myth #1: Trials Are Bad

Quotes to Ponder

James condemns any form of Christianity that drifts into a sterile, actionless "orthodoxy." Faith, not what we do, is fundamental in establishing a relationship with God. But faith, James insists, must be given content. Genuine faith, he insists, always and inevitably produces evidence of its existence in a life of righteous living.

The author of the letter seems to have been so soaked in the atmosphere and specifics of Jesus' teaching that he can reflect them almost unconsciously.

Basic to all that James says in his letter is his concern that his readers stop compromising with worldly values and behavior and give themselves wholly to the Lord.

Douglas Moo

James has so much wisdom in such a small book that it's trying to get a drink of water from a fire hose.

Jack Wellman

The book of James looks a bit like the Old Testament book of Proverbs dressed up in New Testament clothes.... For James, a faith that does not produce real life change is a faith that is worthless.

Charles Swindoll

Everything that James says flows from the astonishing fact that his older brother, Jesus Himself, had embodied new life and forgiveness. Jesus had hung at the place where new life and forgiveness came bursting through from God's world to ours.

N.T. Wright

2. Myth #2: Faith is What I Think

3. Myth #3: Religion is a Private Matter

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you? Convinced you? Challenged you? Confused you?

2. What do the following verses tell us about James?

Mark 3:21 —

Acts 15:13, 22 —

Mark 6:3 —

Galatians 1:19 —

John 7:5 —

Galatians 2:9 —

Acts 12:17 —

James 1:1 —

3. The testing of our faith is a prominent theme throughout Scripture.

What do the following verses say about this?

Psalms 17:3 —

Lamentations 3:40 —

Psalms 26:1-2 —

Ezekiel 18:28 —

Psalms 139:23-24 —

2 Corinthians 13:5 —

4. Why do we dislike trying, difficult times in our lives?

5. What is *faith*? Does it just involve what we believe or is there more to it? Explain.

6. Is Christianity a private matter? Explain.

7. Is it possible that anyone will arrive at Judgment Day and say to Jesus, “I believed in You, that You died and rose again,” and yet be condemned to eternity in hell? Explain.

What does God require for salvation?

8. What’s the differences between a workless faith and a faith that works?

Why is a faith that has no works so despicable in the sight of God?

9. What similarities can be found between Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount and the writings of James?

Js 1:2; Mt 5:10-12 —

Js 3:18; Mt 5:9 —

Js 1:4; Mt 5:48 —

Js 4:2-3; Mt 7:7-8 —

Js 1:5, 17; Mt 7:7-11 —

Js 4:4; Mt 6:24 —

Js 1:20; Mt 5:22 —

Js 4:9-10; Mt 5:4 —

Js 1:22; Mt 7:24-27 —

Js 4:11-12; Mt 7:1-5 —

Js 2:5; Mt 5:3, 5 —

Js 4:13-14; Mt 6:34 —

Js 2:10; Mt 5:20 —

Js 5:2-5; Mt 6:19 —

Js 2:13; Mt 5:7 —

Js 5:10; Mt 5:12 —

Js 3:12; Mt 7:16 —

Js 5:12; Mt 5:33-37 —