

James

Chapter Two

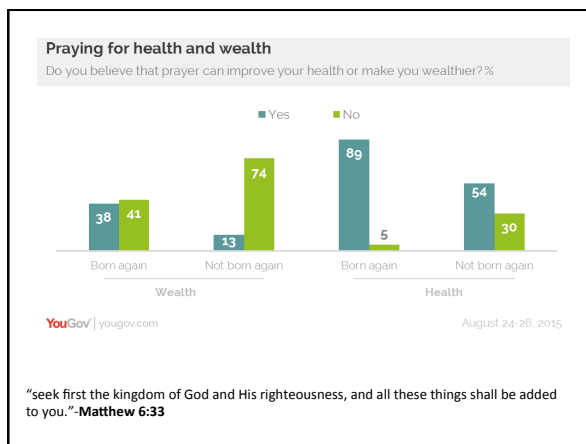
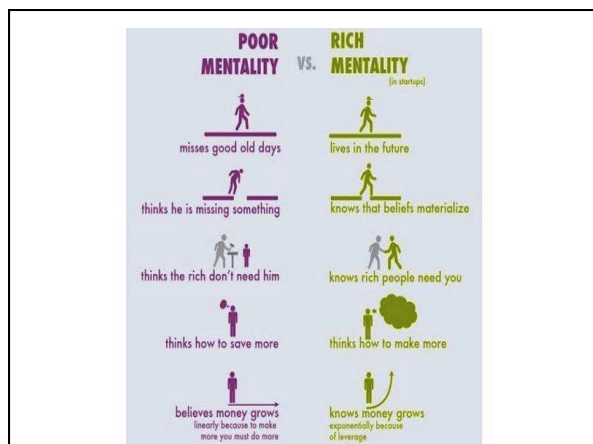
James 2:1-4

“My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes,

and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, “You sit here in a good place,” and say to the poor man, “You stand there,” or, “Sit here at my footstool,” have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?”

Partiality

- James is building from what he stated about religion in chapter one: “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble.....” (v.27).
- Since the Fall man has had trouble relating to one another. It was a problem in James’ day and it is still with us today.
- It is the problem of inconsistent love for other people that demonstrates itself in how we treat them with favoritism and cultural biases.
- People have routinely categorized others as rich or poor, black or white, slave or free or whatever label a person could conjure up to stand above the other people group.
- The word James uses for “partiality” is better translated as “respector of persons” to give judgment has respect of the outward circumstances of man and not to their intrinsic merits.



God's Mentality

- "...when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage....then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth. And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth....' " - Deuteronomy 8:14,17-18
- "As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor—this is the gift of God.

- Everything that we have in this world is a gift from God.
- If we keep this in mind it supports an attitude of humility towards the things we have in this world.
- If we have an attitude of humility then we will have respect for others and see them as people regardless of the things that they have to bring to the table for our own usefulness.
- Simply put: It is seeing people as people who are made equally in the glorious image of God.

Personal Favoritism

- It is very easy in the culture we live in today to show favoritism to those we deem rich and successful over those who seem to be less advantageous.
- After all it is the “lifestyles of the rich and famous” that get all the accolades. We don’t give much attention the “lifestyles of the poor and mediocre”.
- Personal favoritism is not a characteristic that should be accepted by the Christian community, and it is inconsistent for a Christian who holds the “faith and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ” to practice it.



No Partiality With God

- “For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe.”-**Deuteronomy 10:17**
- “Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.”-**Acts 10:34**
- “But from those who seemed to be something— whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; **God shows personal favoritism to no man**....”-**Galatians 2:6**
- A significant aspect of the work of Jesus was to break down these walls that divided humanity, and to bring forth one new race of mankind in Him (Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 2:14-15)

The Near-Sighted Usher

- Someone has said, ‘Some go to church to close their eyes, and others go to eye the clothes.’-McGee
- James identifies two people who come into the assembly of believers:
 1. The rich person with the gold ring and fine clothes.
 2. The poor person with dirty stinky clothes.
- The near-sighted usher runs up to the rich person and puts him up in high regard and disrespects the poor man.
- His motive was “evil” by “judging” what the church could obtain from the rich man, rather than, what it could be imparted to them by the gospel message.

James 2:5-7

“Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?”

The Problem With Riches

- “Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?”-**Matthew 19:23-25**
- Riches are a problem because they tend to make us satisfied with this life instead of longing for the millennial kingdom reign of Jesus.
- Riches make man feel self sufficient and secure and often become a priority at the expense of seeking God.
- The great amazement of the disciples was based on the false assumption that riches were always a sign of God's blessing and favor.

The Pride Of Indifference

- The Laodicean church people were being influenced by the wealthy culture around them and had “become wealthy” themselves
- They claimed to be self-sufficient in “need of nothing”.
- Their pride blinded their eyes to the truth of their need for the Lord.
- The church in Smyrna was poor but Jesus counted them as rich. The church in Laodicea was rich but Jesus counted them as poor.

Wealth Is Not The Issue

- The Lord is not criticizing the Laodiceans for being rich. He is criticizing them for **boasting about it**. “Because you say, “I am Rich, have become wealthy....”
- They had forgotten that the Lord is the giver of all good things.
- “Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, **who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.** 1 Tim. 6:17

Spiritual Blindness

- Jesus told the Laodicean church that they didn't know their true spiritual condition.
- **In their pride** they claimed that they had it all together and were in need of nothing.
- But in fact they were **wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.**
- There was a contrast between what they thought of themselves and what they really were.
- There was a contrast between what they saw in their lives and what Jesus saw.
- There was a contrast between their personal wealth and their spiritual bankruptcy.

- "The Laodiceans are typical of the modern world, which revels in that which the natural eye can see but is untouched by the gospel and does not see beyond the veil of the material to the unseen and real eternal spiritual riches." (Walvoord)
- For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire; He blesses the greedy *and* renounces the LORD. **The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts.** His ways are always prospering; Your judgments *are* far above, out of his sight; *As for* all his enemies, he sneers at them. He has said in his heart, "I shall not be moved; I shall never be in adversity."-Psalm 10:3-6

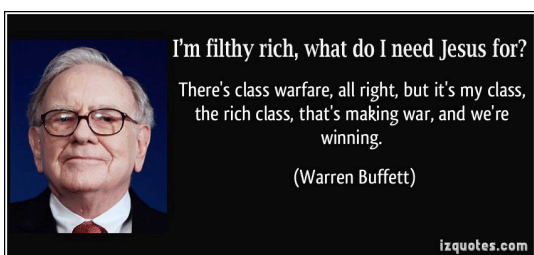
The Heart Of God

- God has chosen the poor, the down-trodden, the burned out, the afflicted, the beat-up by life people to be rich in faith.
- Those who have been humbled and broken by life.
- "The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit."-Psalm 34:18
- The poor have a deep sense of need for God which makes them rich in faith.
- When a Christians dishonor "the poor," they treat them exactly opposite to the way God treats them.

Galatians 2:10 "Only,
they asked us to
remember the poor, the
very thing I was eager to
do."

The Intolerant Rich

- The Rich person in this context is intolerant of the views of others and drags people into court so they can get more for themselves regardless of the damage to the other individuals.
- To “blaspheme” means to speak with contempt or to mock.
- The intolerant rich person speaks with contempt towards the very name by which we are saved.



Proper View Of The Rich

- James is not teaching that the church should ignore or despise the rich because of their riches. That would be reverse discrimination
- The church should show God's love and grace to all, whether rich or poor.
- Rather, he is saying that the rich should not be given preferential treatment, to the detriment of the poor in an attempt to court their money or influence.

Proper View Of Ourselves

- "For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith." Romans 12:3
- "Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation." Romans 12:16

- "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus," Philippians 2:3-5
- "For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. "But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have *reason for* boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another." Galatians 6:3-4

- "Thus says the Lord, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the Lord." Jeremiah 9:23-24

James 2:8-11

"If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well; but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law."

The Royal Law

- "Royal" has the idea of being supreme or sovereign and absolutely binding.
- The "royal law" is the law of the King who heads the kingdom.
- It is also "royal" in that it is primary; it governs all other laws dealing with human relationships (Matt. 22:37-39; Deut. 6:5; Lev. 19:18).
- The "royal law" of love is the defining action in how as believers we "ought" to interact with our fellow man.

According To Scripture

- James makes it clear that the royal law that he is referring is based upon **the authority of Scripture**.
- "Authority itself means that right or power to command action or compliance, or to determine belief or custom, expecting obedience from those under authority, and in turn giving responsible account for the claim to right or power."-Ramm
- What is truly known about authority did not originate outside of Scripture but rather within the 66 books and stems from the nature of God.

- God's authority cannot be denied when considering the following truth about God:
 1. God created the heavens and the earth and all that is contained and maintained for life (Genesis 1-2)
 2. God was before all things and in Him all things consist, move and have being. (Colossians 2)
 3. God owns the earth, all that it contains, and those who dwell in it (Psalm 24:1)
 4. God destroys it all in the end and He declares, "Behold, I am making all things new" (Rev 21:5)

Psalm 119:89

**“Forever, O LORD,
Your word is settled
in heaven.”**

God's Word is Changeless

- God is not a Politician who argues endlessly.
- God simply says, "This is the way it is going to be."
- If we want to find out how God has settled things we need to read His Word.
- No one regardless of how clever they may be, will be able to change the Word of God.
- Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.” (Mt. 24:35)
- When all of this stuff around us is gone. God's Word will still remain.

God's Word Is Inspired

- 2 Timothy 3:16 says that, “*all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*”
- This means something more than saying that God inspired the men who wrote it, though we believe that He did; God also inspired the very words they wrote. We notice it doesn't say “All Scripture writers are inspired by God,” even though that is true. Yet that statement doesn't go far enough. The words they wrote were breathed by God.

If you aren't good at loving
yourself, you will have a
difficult time loving anyone,
since you'll resent the time and
energy you give another person
that you aren't even giving to
yourself.

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Love Neighbor As Yourself

- Love of self is presupposed within this commandment.
- “Jesus says in effect: I start with your inborn, deep, defining human trait—your love for yourself. This is a given. I don't command it; I assume it. All of you have a powerful instinct of self-preservation and self-fulfillment.”-Piper
- Scripture simply acknowledges that it is a basic human instinct to love ourselves: “For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it....”-Ephesians 5:29

- The believer who sees himself in the light of Scripture and through the eyes of a loving and gracious God realizes that in himself is a prideful, sinful and self-centered individual deserving of condemnation but through the sacrifice of Jesus is saved by the grace of God and loved by Him.
- “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.”-Philippians 2:3-7
- In the same way that Jesus gave of Himself, not considering His position, we are also to look outside ourselves and seek the genuine human needs of others-their physical needs and their spiritual needs. In so doing we love our neighbor as ourselves.

Being Partial Is Sinful

- James goes on to add that applying the law of love to partiality is committing a sin.
- If a person is partial to the rich person and disrespectful to the poor person he is not loving the individual as himself but is in fact loving the rich person for what he can gain from him. A self-seeking endeavor which doesn't enhance the well-being of either the rich or poor man.
- The rich person is not the problem. **The problem is the individual who is showing partiality.**

Stumbling Over The Law

- James indicates that if we stumble at one point in the Law we are not only breaking that particular Law but are guilty of breaking the whole Law.
- Paul said the same thing: “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.”-Galatians 3:10
- God's Law is a unified whole and it hangs together like a glass window. If part of the window is broken the whole window is broken.

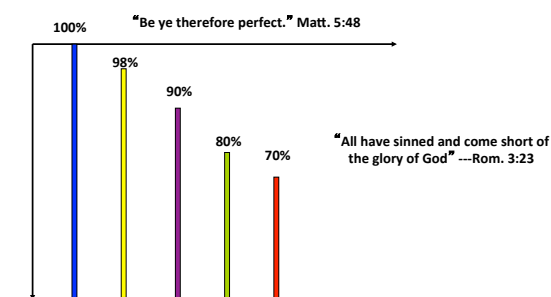
Not All Sins Are Equal

- It is true that breaking one Law is to break the whole Law but it would be wrong to conclude that all sins are equal.
- Jesus indicated that matters of the Law like justice, mercy and faithfulness are heavier measures of the Law than are tithe and spices. (Matt. 23:23)
- The bottom line is that there are certain sins that are not equal in how they effect the person and society. To lust mentally is a sin but it is a bigger sin to commit adultery. To be angry with someone is a sin but to commit murder is worse.

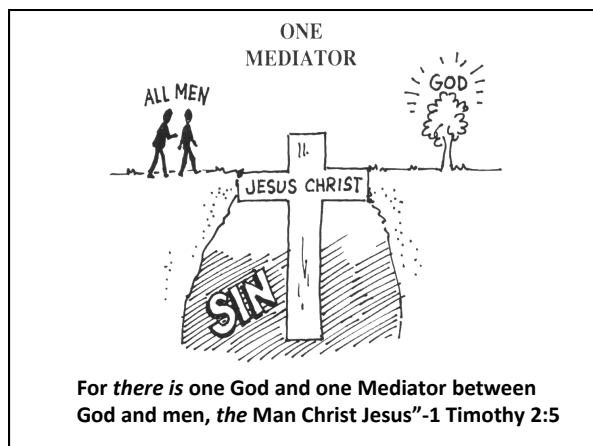
Guilty Of All

- "The Jew was very apt to regard the law as a series of detached injunctions. To keep one of these injunctions was to gain credit; to break one was to incur debt. Therefore, a man could add up the ones he kept and subtract the ones he broke, and, as it were emerge with a credit or a debit balance." -Barclay
- This is the wrong assumption that is common to all work based religions. The idea that acceptance and rejection depends on the moral standing of the individual's good behavior.
- The relativistic notion of good behavior adding up to being a good person is the value system of a culture that says, "I am good if I do more good than bad; therefore, I should be accepted by God".

The Divine Measure



- "For what the law couldn't do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God did, sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh" -**Romans 8:3**
- The law does a great job of setting God's perfect standard but it does not give the ability to hold to that standard.
- The Law is weak and unprofitable when it comes to salvation nor can it help me with my weaknesses.
- Only Jesus can cure the sin problem of the human race.



Jesus Entered Heaven For Us

- The sole purpose of Jesus' sacrifice upon the cross was for the cleansing of man's sin.
- The believer now has confidence to stand in the presence of God because Jesus is now on our side.
- "If God is for us, who can be against us"-Romans 8:31
- Satan enters the presence of God and accuses the believer constantly but we overcome him through the blood of the Lamb.
- Jesus dying for us means we don't need to fear condemnation after death because He is interceding on our behalf.

Once And For All

- It is important to note the importance that the "once and for all" statement is to the book of Hebrews.
- His argument is based on this truth that Jesus died "once and for all" as opposed to the sacrifices that must be repeated yearly.
- We have been "once purified" (Heb. 10:2)
- He offered "one sacrifice for sins forever" (Heb. 10:12)
- In one offering He has "perfected forever" those who are being sanctified. (10:14)

- "For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name *is* Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy *place*, With him *who* has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones."-Isaiah 57:15
- The gaining of Christ is the relationship of love and adoration not the perfection of behaviors; the journey becomes joyful when we recognize the winning of Christ is in the relationship, not our performance.

Loving Our Neighbor

- How do I show Christ's love to my neighbor?
- The way that Jesus loves us is a reflection of how we are to love others.
- Jesus said, "Just as I have loved you, you should love one another"-John 13:34
- When we reflect on how God has loved us with all our flaws and weaknesses this is how we are to love our neighbor.
- Paul said, "...accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God."-Romans 15:7
- "Let love be without hypocrisy."-Romans 12:9

Fixing One Another

- A problem emerges when we create an agenda or shape out an ideal that we want someone to live up to, we are not accepting when we do this.
- There too many who believe that in order to love somebody they need fix that person's issues and by doing so take the role of the Holy Spirit.
- God reaches out to us not looking to our strengths but to our weaknesses as a means to show us His amazing love.
- "Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves."-Romans 15:1
- A Large part of loving is letting people be who they are with all their uniqueness, all their strengths, and all their flaws.

Imperfect Love

- Our idea of love has become so distorted by a culture that is a product of sin. Our first experience with love originates with our parents but they are human and can influence our lives with their imperfect love



What Is Perfect Love?

- 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.---Rom 5:8
- "....the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.-- Rom 5:5
- 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,---Rom 8:15-16

Psalm 103

- "Bless the LORD, O my soul, And **forget not all His benefits:** 3 Who forgives all your iniquities, **Who heals all your diseases,** 4 Who **redeems your life from destruction,** Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies..."
- "8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, **Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.**
- "10 **He has not dealt with us according to our sins,** Nor punished us according to our iniquities.
- "12 **As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.** 13 As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. 14 **For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust."**

James 2:12-13

"So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment."

Judgment Without Mercy

- "The gospel is the "law of liberty" because it frees those who place their faith in Jesus Christ from the bondage, judgment, and punishment of sin...."- MacArthur
- Paul stated, "Who are you to judge another's servant?" - **Romans 15:4**
- We, as believers, are to act out towards others with mercy because we have been set free in Jesus Christ.
- If we don't demonstrate mercy towards one another we shouldn't expect mercy in return.
- "For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."-**Galatians 5:13**

The Principle Of Judgment

- James is applying the principle of judgment that Jesus spoke about in His Sermon on the Mount.
- Jesus said: "For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."-**Matthew 7:2**
- We have to judge in matters of: truth, law, right and wrong, spiritual matters, and doctrine.
- What Jesus is not allowing is a critical spirit that finds faults in others while not recognizing our own shortcomings.

- “....how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye?”-**Matthew 7:4**
- The word for “plank” is a joist that holds up the roof; and the word for “speck” is a splinter.
- We should not look to others faults when we have faults of our own to work on and heal.
- When a man has truly seen himself through the eyes of God he never judges anybody else in the wrong way!
- A false view of our superiority over others gives consent for us to recognize others faults as greater than our own.

James 2:14

“What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?”

Three Views Of This Verse

1. “The Arminian interpretation of this verse is as follows. If a person claims to be a Christian, but gives no evidence of true faith by the way he lives, he may never have been saved, or he may no longer be saved.
2. One Reformed view is that if a person claims to be a Christian, but gives no evidence of true faith by the way he lives, he was never saved.
3. Another view says, if a person claims to be a Christian, but gives no evidence of true faith by the way he lives, there are two possibilities. He may not be saved, or he may be saved, but he is not living by faith, practicing his faith.”- Constable

Can Faith Save Him?

- James asks this question at the end of verse 14.
- The answer will always be the same that mere faith in and of itself cannot save.
- Paul said “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **believe in your heart** that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”-**Romans 10:9-10**
- You can see that Paul makes it very clear that we must go beyond just the **mental consent** to the truth of something, we must **believe in our hearts**.

A Living Faith In Loving Action

- If a person has true faith he will live out that faith in loving action towards others.
- **Living faith produces good works** that are a direct result of the new nature born into the believer through faith in Jesus.
- Good works are prepared beforehand by God for the believer to walk in through a living faith.
- The only works that God prepared for the believer to walk in are **"good works"** all other works are dead and are forced as a result from the old nature not the Spirit of God.
- Dead works may appear to be good works and some people may even see and call them as good but God views them as dead because they did not come from a living faith in relationship with God.
- Spiritual character and good works will be observed by others as a result of the inward working of the Word of God upon our heart and our obedience to it.

What We Know About Faith

- Faith is not a work. It is a gift and the means by which man is saved. (Rom. 12:3)
- "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God**" -Ephesians 2:8
- "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." -Romans 10:17
- "Yet, **looking to the promise of God**, he [Abraham] didn't waver through unbelief, **but grew strong through faith**, giving glory to God, and **being fully assured that what he had promised**, he was also able to perform." **Romans 4:20-21**

- Faith is being **fully convinced** in the promises of God.
- We are made **righteous** before God through faith.
- We are **justified** before God through faith as opposed to the Law.
- We **live** by faith in the promises of God.
- Faith is the opposite of sight. (2 Cor. 5:7)
- It is by faith that we perceive the things happening around us are not be chance.
- "Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen." -Hebrews 11:1

We As Believers Are Complete In Him

- "...and you are **complete in Him**, who is the head of all principality and power." - Col 2:10
- "'Then they said to Him, 'What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?'" Jesus answered and said to them, **"This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."** - John 6:28-29
- "'And **this is the will of Him** who sent Me, that **everyone who sees the Son and believes** in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.'" - John 6:40

Is James Denying Paul's Theology?

- Are we justified by faith alone?
 - Yes as Paul declares, "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law."-**Romans 3:28**
 - James is addressing our justification before men and Paul would agree! Faith must be shown to be known.
 - Paul taught good works must accompany saving faith (Eph. 2:10; Titus 3:8; Gal. 5:6; Phil. 2:11-12).
 - Paul corrected justification before God by works of the law.
 - James is teaching justification by faith but good works are evidence of the believer's walk.

The Way Of Faith

- The way of faith is the opposite of walking by our own understanding.
- The way of faith is not mentally consenting to the truth of something because when it's only in our head it's not faith – it's knowledge. Faith resides not in the head, but in the heart.
- The way of faith is a perpetual dependence upon the Lord. A moment-by-moment reliance of our trust in God and Him alone.

- The way of faith active trust in the goodness of Lord which then expresses itself in loyalty to His will.
- The way of faith means that we put our total trust in God's Word with complete surrender to what He has promised.
- The way of faith is to "believe God" and not man and his traditions.
- The way of faith is not "what you believe? But "whom do you believe?"

James 2:15-17

"If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

Example Of Dead Faith

- James is not saying that if you respond to the basic human needs of a person that you are saved. That is what that the social gospel supports.
- James is also not saying that if you don't respond to the basic human needs of a person you are not saved.
- James is simply giving an example of dead faith as opposed to a living active faith.
- "Dead" does not mean non-existent but inactive, no longer vital, dormant, or useless.

James 2:18-19

"But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!"

Genuine Faith

- Genuine faith is demonstrated by actions lived out in the world around us.
- "'Some might try to say that I have the "gift" of works and others have the "gift" of faith. "It's fine for you to have your gift of works and that you care for the needy. But that isn't my gift."' -Guzik
- Genuine faith will be demonstrated by works.

The Demons Believe

- The demons believe in God but they do not do the will of God.
- The verse is often quoted and used to demonstrate that you can believe and still not have salvation.
- This is not the point of James. James is stating that the demons believe but their faith is a dead faith because it does not have evidence of good works generated from a relationship with Jesus

Many Disciples Leave Jesus

- “Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this*, said, “This is a hard saying; who can understand it? When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, “Does this offend you? *What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before?* It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.” From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?” But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”-John 6:60-69

James 2:20-23

“But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?

Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God.”

Abraham Obeyed God

- Abraham acted in obedience to the call that God had placed upon his life.
- Abraham was not following his own dream of moving to Canaan but was answering God’s call upon his life.
- Abraham’s response is obedience to what he heard.
- Faith must rest on God’s revelation in Scripture.
- **Christianity is not a faith based on the religious speculations or philosophies of men but rather on God’s revelation recorded in Scripture.**

Obedience Is The Response Of Faith

- “**Who has saved us and called us** with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began”.-2 Timothy 1:9
- “Moreover whom He predestined, **these He also called**; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”-Romans 8:30
- “...as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him **who called us** by glory and virtue...”-2 Peter 1:3
- “Through Him we have received grace and apostleship **for obedience to the faith** among all nations for His name,but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, **for obedience to the faith**.”-Romans 1:5;16:26

Different kinds of Obedience

- Some people obey out of fear of not being good enough.
- Some people obey out of a sense of duty to the church.
- Some people obey out of pressure from the culture they live.
- Some people obey out of the need to please those in their church or family.
- None of these mentioned above are **faith driven to obedience**.

James 2:24-26

“You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

The Faith Of Rahab

- Rahab must of heard because we know that faith comes by hearing the Word of God.
- The fact is she did hear which produced her faith: ““For **we have heard** how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. And as soon as **we heard** these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.”-Joshua 2:10-11
- This resulted in obedience and action of her faith by hiding the spies. Her faith was applied in good works.

God-Breathed Faith

- Living-Faith is a faith that God breathes life into the works that are prepared for the believer as Paul said in Colossians 2:12 “....faith in the working of God, who raised Jesus from the dead”.
- “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”-James 2:26
- “Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?”-James 2:21-22
- Abraham believed God and His word spoken to him which produced in Abraham **God directed action of obedience to the will of God.**