

Faith That Works
“Do You Have a Faith That Works?”
James 1-5 Overview

Introduction- Do you have a faith that works? Faith justifies the man; works justify the faith.

Some have only an empty profession, say (vs. 14).

Some have only an intellectual ascent (vs. 19).

Some have only an emotional feeling (vs. 19).

Do you have a real faith? Real faith works.

Ask yourself these 10 questions based on the message of James:

1. How Do I Respond to Trials?

- Do I count it all a joy? (1:2)
- Do I know that trials are for my good? (1:3)
- Do I let God work in my life? (1:4)
- Do I ask God for wisdom? (1:5)

A faith that works is purified through trials.

2. Do I resist temptation?

- Remember temptations source (1:13-14a)
- Remember temptations course (1:14b-15)
 - Desire, own lust (vs. 14)
 - Disobedience bringeth forth sin (vs. 15)
 - Death bringeth forth death (vs. 15)
- Remember how temptation is conquered
 - God's goodness (1:17)
 - God's new nature (1:18)

A faith that works resists temptation!

3. Am I a doer of the Word?

God demands our:

- Attention (1:19) “Hear the word”
- Reception (1:21) “Receive the word”
- Application (1:22) “Obey the word”

A faith that works obeys the Word of God.

4. Do I show partiality?

Reasons not to show partiality in chapter 2:

- It’s inconsistent with faith in Christ (2:1)
- It’s inconsistent with God’s action (2:5)
- It’s the breaking of God’s law (2:8-9)
- We shall be judged (2:12-13)

A faith that works does not show partiality, but shows love to all.

5. Am I able to tame my tongue?

James says in 3:8, “*the tongue can no man tame.*” True, but the Holy Spirit can! See 3:2 and 1:26.

A faith that works has power over the tongue.

6. Do I follow “earthly wisdom” or “heavenly wisdom”?

- Earthly wisdom (3:14-16)
- Heavenly wisdom (3:17-18)

The faith that works produces peace!

7. Do I humbly submit to God's will and plans for my life?

Why? 4:13 "*ye that say...*"

- Because of the complexity of life (4:13)
- Because of the uncertainty of life (4:14a)
- Because of the brevity of life (4:14b)

"What we ought to say" (4:15)

A faith that works submits to God's purpose and plan in all of life.

8. Do I patiently await the Lord's return?

(5:7) "Patient"- It's long-suffering toward people. It's self restraint in the face of provocation. (5:1-6 contrast)

Illustration:

- The farmer- keep working
- The prophets- keep witnessing
- Job- keep waiting

Jesus said John 14, "let not your heart"

A faith that works is long-suffering, waiting for the Lord's return!"

9. Am I prayerful till the Lord returns?

- When I am sad (5:13a)
- When I am glad (5:13b)
- When I am sick (5:14)
- When the state has turned from God (5:17-18)

Key: 5:16, "the effective fervent prayer...:"

10. Do I seek to restore my erring Christian brother or sister?

Note: 5:19-20

- Can you detect when a fellow believer starts to stray?
- Are you truly concerned.
- Do you prayerfully reach out?

Gal. 6

As we wait the Lord's return, what does God want in our lives?

- Priorities (vv. 1-6)
- Patience (vv. 7-12)
- Prayer (vv. 13-18)
- Personal concern (vv. 19-20)

Does your faith work?

- 1. Patient in trials, chp. 1**
- 2. Practices the truth, chp. 2**
- 3. Power over the tongue, chp. 3**
- 4. Peacemaker, not a troublemaker, chp. 4**
- 5. Prayerful in troubles, chp. 5**