

CHAPTER 26.1

FAITH DOES!

"FAITH TESTED"
James 1
March 19, 2017

Tested faith is lived.

I. Faith tested is steadfast because it is reliant upon God's character. (1-18)

A. Steadfast Faith (2-4, 12)

1. Trial tested.
2. Produces steadfastness:
 - a. Makes complete believers: perfect and complete, mature
 - b. Lacking nothing!
3. Rewarded by God. (12)

B. Reliant Faith (5-18)

1. For wisdom (5-8)
Wisdom is skillful living that finds its inception and completion in reverential submission to the Lord.
2. For value in life (9-11)
3. Upon God's character, not our own. (13-18)
 - a. God's character: perfect, unchanging, giver of good (13, 16-18)
 - b. Our character:
 - 1) Desires lure and entice us.
 - 2) Desire conceives sin.
 - 3) Sin brings death.

II. Faith lives God's Word, not our agenda. (19-27)

A. God's way, not ours. (19-20)

B. When we receive God's Word, we throw away our ways and do His Word. (21-22)

C. How to approach God's Word so as to do it. (23-25)

Our key problem is that we forget.
Look carefully (bend over).
Keep looking and living.

D. Real faith is lived. (26-27)

1. Self-control (especially in speech)
2. Care for orphans and widows
3. Purity, unstained, means without spot.

How does this apply to me?

NEXT WEEK

"FAITH DOES"
James 2:1-3:12

Passage Overview:

Faith does. It acts. It is lived. We easily fall into the pattern of thinking of faith in terms of a cognitive and volitional entity. We internalize it, personalize it, and privatize it. But faith is much more than that.

Faith is the trusting, hope-filled attitude of the heart and mind that determines all of life. And life is lived. So faith is lived.

James challenged the early Jewish believers to live out the powerful dynamism of faith in their daily lives. In fact, he clearly states that faith, without actions, is simply dead. Faith that isn't lived isn't alive. It is like a body without a spirit to animate it. It is a body, but it is not alive. It is of no value.

During the time of the reformation, when believers like Martin Luther woke up to the wonders of salvation by grace through faith, James' letter was often discounted. But it was and is an essential part of scripture. While accepting that salvation is by faith and not by works, James reminds his readers that life cannot be compartmentalized. We can't truly believe the gospel without having it control every single aspect of our daily living.

So James addresses how faith impacts our relationships within fractured societies. Faith erases social preference and prejudice. Faith, which is unseen, is necessarily displayed in actions, which are seen. And faith begins the process of bridling and controlling that most dangerous and uncontrollable part of our body that evidences to everyone what is really inside of us; the tongue.

Faith is not private, because faith does.

Reading for Next Week: James 2:1-3:12