

CHAPTER 26.2 **FAITH DOES!**

“FAITH DOES”
James 2:1-3:12
March 26, 2017

Faith in the kingdom that sets us free transforms the way we speak and act.

The faith of kingdom citizens frees them to speak and act according to royal law.

- I. Faith loves without preference. (2:1-13)
 - A. What is partiality?

 - B. How partiality shows itself.

 - C. Partiality is sin.
 1. We make ourselves to be judge, taking the place only God has. (2:4b-7)
 2. We violate the royal law. (8-11)

 - D. Faith's response to diversity.
 1. Love as yourself.

 2. Kingdom portrait.

 3. Mercy triumphs over judgment (2:13)

- II. Faith works. (2:14-26)
 - A. Faith without works is dead. (2:18)

 - B. Faith shows up in actions. (2:18-26)

- III. Faith controls speech. (3:1-12)
 - A. Caution to teachers. (3:1-2)

 - B. Power packed in little places. (3:3-8)

Faith does.

How does this apply to me?

NEXT WEEK

“THE HEART OF FAITH”
James 3:13 – 4:12

Passage Overview:

The epistle of James has often been understood as a call for action that ignores the motives that drive actions. But the heart, the desires, and the motives behind what we do are foundational to the Spirit's message through James.

Faith in the perfect character of God drives a life that is committed to skillfully living for His glory. Such a life of gentle wisdom is grounded in humble reverence before God. This gentle and humble life stands in strong opposition to the devil and to our flesh. It wages war, not against others, but against the evil schemes that the devil uses to target our hearts. It provides a strong bulwark against the natural jealous desires of our hearts, which create disorder and conflict both within us and outside of us.

The desires of one's heart produce the actions of one's life. Strong passions that are centered on self create disorder, friction with others, and the constant desire for more. All of this is because we do what we do because we want what we want. If we have an insatiable desire for more personal pleasure, it will drive us into constant conflict with others.

But if our heart desire is to draw near to God and to bring Him glory, the actions of our lives will be pure, peace filled, gentle, open to reason, filled with mercy, abounding in good fruits, treating all people as of equal and great value, and genuine.

What do your actions and the condition of your relationships with others tell you about the desires of your heart?

Reading for Next Week: James 3:13 – 4:12