

JAMES CHAPTER 2

KEY WORDS IN JAMES 2

BELIEVE
JUSTIFIED Transgressor
Spirit FAITH LISTEN
LAW LOVE rich
Works blaspheme
SIN Scripture dead Guilty
ABRAHAM Murder
Judgement Adultery ISAAC poor Body
FAITH Partiality MERCY
Works neighbor dead
Scripture LIBERTY

In Chapter One of James we looked at the trials of our faith in the light of the faithfulness of our God. We were encouraged to endure our trials with the knowledge that trials actually strengthen our faith.

Likewise, we were admonished to not only be **‘hearers’** of God’s Word, but to also be **‘doers’** of the Word with respect to our behaviors.

Chapter two continues along the theme of “being doers of God’s Word” – **adding action to our profession of faith.**

As you begin reading chapter 2, pay close attention to these Key Words found in the first 4 verses of the chapter:

Favoritism Rich

Partiality Poor

READ JAMES 2:1-4 □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

WHAT IS FAVORITISM?

the unfair practice of treating some people better than others

- **Consider the places where you have observed favoritism...**
- **Consider what ways you have acted with favoritism...**

James says that when we make distinctions among ourselves, that we become:

- **J_____ with E_____ thoughts.**

FOR DISCUSSION OR DEEPER CONSIDERATION:

Why do you think we make distinctions between ourselves and others?

What critical question does James ask of us in verse one?

Write it out completely:

READ JAMES 2:5-7 □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

The world often has a preferential view of the poor and the rich. Some believe that a person's possessions or station in life are an indication of their worth or value – even to God.

However, James teaches the believers not to judge according to the world's standards, but according to the promises of God.

According to verses 5-7, God has chosen the poor to be:

- **R_____ in Faith**
- **H_____ to the K_____.**
- **God has promised His Kingdom to those who L_____ Him.**
- **But you have D_____ the P_____.**

CONSIDER OUR MOTIVES AND THOUGHTS

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BLASPHEME?

- is to speak of or address with irreverence;
- the act of insulting or showing a contempt;
- or lack of reverence for God;
- irreverence towards something considered sacred, [holy, or blessed].⁶
- What is the **“excellent name”** that has been invoked over believers?
- Whose name is **“blasphemed”** when we show preferential treatment?

READ JAMES 2:8-13 **LAW OF LIBERTY**

- **James admonishes the believers to speak and act as those who will be judged by what law?**

⁶ Merriam-Webster, Inc. *Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary*. 2003 : n. pag. Print.

In Christ Jesus, we have been set free! We are at liberty from the Law of Moses, because the Law of Moses could not and did not save us.

Beloved, we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ, and Jesus is the end of the law of works to all who believe. Our faith in Jesus Christ has brought us under a new law - The Law of Liberty.⁷

- **What does James mean when He says that Mercy Triumphs over Judgment?**

THE LAW OF LOVE

As Christians, we are called to live our lives in a way that pleases God. We are called to a life of obedience. When Jesus' disciples asked him what was the greatest commandment, Jesus responded with these Words of Truth:

36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" 37 Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 22:36-40 (NKJV)

READ JAMES 2:14-26

FAITH AND WORKS

Living a life of LOVE through faith (**BELIEF**) in Jesus Christ calls the believer beyond their profession of faith to a demonstration of love in action (**WORKS**).

James asks a crucial question in verse 14 concerning faith (**BELIEF**) and action (**WORKS**). Can faith without a demonstration of that faith save you?

⁷ Smith, Chuck. *The Word for Today Bible*. NKJV. Nelson Bibles. 2005. Jas 2:12

- **Consider the following verse from Romans 10:9 concerning Salvation:**

“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

- **Salvation requires both faith (BELIEF) and action (CONFESSION).**

Likewise, a life of faith always has corresponding action(s).

We don't do works of faith in order to be saved, but we engage in faithful works because we are saved.

Our actions/works are therefore a witness to our faith, and James says that these two, FAITH and WORKS testify of our faith.

- **Faith (BELIEF) by itself is _____.**
- **Faith (BELIEF) without _____ is _____.**
- **If one has FAITH (belief) and another has WORKS, James says that the one with _____ will demonstrate it by _____.**

Show me your faith without works, and I by my works will show you my faith.

James makes a startling but true statement **in verse 19** concerning the poverty and emptiness of BELIEF without corresponding WORKS.

26For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

- **Read Genesis 22 to learn more about Abraham and Isaac.**
- **Read Joshua 2 to learn more about Rahab the prostitute.**

Faith without Action is Dead

by George Cuff

*What good is it, brothers, to claim to have faith when your life reveals no deeds?
Just hearing how well that you can talk is not what a lost world needs.
Suppose a brother in the Lord is homeless and without clothes.
He doesn't need a Bible quiz to see how much he knows.*

*What he needs is love from the church and not some trite confession.
He's homeless, hungry, without hope cause He's lost his earthly possessions.
So don't show your faith with a spiritual speech but lacking pertinent action.
When a person has needs there must be good deeds to elicit satisfaction.*

*Take for example, Abraham, who placed his full trust in God.
He chose to believe and walked in faith as he traveled this earthly sod.
He didn't sit there in his tent waiting for God to descend.
He followed God from Ur to Canaan, was known as God's dear friend.*

*Consider Rahab, a soiled dove, a lady of the night.
Whose heart upon meeting Joshua was opened to the light.
She made a decision to follow God as her spirit was moved with awe,
So she hid Israel's spies upon her rooftop covering them with straw.*

*If Rahab had not acted; if her faith had stayed in her head,
The spies upon on the rooftop were just as good as dead.
Faith cannot deliver if it's reduced to something you think
Anymore than water can help if you fail to take a drink.*

*So show me your faith without your works; by deeds I'll show you mine.
Faith acts upon God's promises, the counterfeit asks for a sign.
Having received the Spirit of God, who gives us wisdom and power,
Let us go forth and act in faith as we serve Him every hour.*

Cuff, George. *Faith without Action is Dead*. <http://throughthebibleinpoetry.blogspot.com>