

Letter of James Chapter 2: Impartiality & Active Faith

"So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

-James 2:17

DAY 1

Read through James 2 several times.

- 1. Let's start with just the facts. Go back through the chapter and do your best to note the who? what? when? where? why? and how?*
- 2. Review your fact list. Is there anything new your notice after breaking the chapter down in this way?*
- 3. Which verse(s) in particular stood out to you today? Write it out. Ask God what he wants you to understand, learn, recognize or consider as you commit that verse to memory this week.*

DAY 2

Read James 2:1-13 several times.

The New Living Translation puts verse 1 this way, "How can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others?"

Answer the following questions in your journal:

- 1. As you read James' example of a rich individual being treated differently from a poor individual at a church gathering, how did that scene make you feel?*
- 2. Now it's time for some brutal honesty. Think about the different groups of people and individuals in your own world. Who is it you tend to favor? Who do you tend to discriminate against? The Amplified version adds the word "snobbery" to describe showing partiality. Where might some form of snobbery have worked its way into how you view or treat a particular people group or person?*
- 3. Spend some time reflecting on your answers. Go for a walk and talk to God about it or write out a prayer to God in your journal. Ask for eyes to recognize any personal blind spots and for help in addressing any changes you would like to make in your attitudes or behaviors.*

DAY 3

Read James 1:19-27 several times.

1. Try describing in your own words what James means when he tells us our faith without works is dead.
2. Can you think of someone in your life who has a living and active faith? What is it about their faith that would make you describe them in that way? Consider sending that individual a text or a note to tell them what their example of faith means to you.
3. We'll dig a little deeper into this same topic tomorrow, but for now, write out a list of any obstacles you can think of that keep you from expressing a more active faith in your life. Stop right now and ask God for help in overcoming those obstacles.

DAY 4

Read: [1John 3:16-18](#), [2 Corinthians 9:6-9](#), [Colossians 1:9-10](#), [Colossians 3:12-17](#)

The Bible is full of reminders and encouragement to exercise good works towards others. This concept flows from God's love for us and his expectation that we too love mankind as he does. In fact, Jesus lived out that kind of love through his words and works; his way of living and dying shows that to love God is to love others. He is the ultimate example of putting faith into action. After readings the verses above, go back and read **James 2:17** in other translations.

1. If works/actions/deeds do not save us, why are good works an expectation for those who follow Jesus?
2. Can one have good deeds without faith? How about faith without good deeds? Explain your thoughts.
3. What is the relationship between the abstract heart actions listed in Colossians 3 to our tangible works?

***Bonus material:** Read [Leviticus 19:9-18](#), then watch the Bible Project video on [The Law](#) to gain insight into the full story of loving God and loving others.

DAY 5

Take some time to review James 2 and your notes from the week. After reviewing, choose one or more of the following:

1. Did God bring someone specific to mind on day 2? Determine a way to reach out to that individual in friendship this week. How might you begin to build a relationship and grow in understanding and love for them?
2. Choose someone specific to serve this week. Write them a note of encouragement, run an errand for them, provide a meal, have a treat or gift delivered to them, send them an anonymous financial gift if appropriate, invite them for a COVID safe walk or Zoom visit anything you can think of that might make them feel seen and loved. Get creative!