

IF LACKING ANYTHING, IF ANY OF YOU LACKS WISDOM, YOU SHOULD ASK GOD, WHO GIVES GENEROUSLY TO ALL WITHOUT FINDING FAULT, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU. BUT WHEN YOU ASK, YOU MUST BELIEVE AND NOT DOUBT, BECAUSE THE ONE WHO DOUBTS IS LIKE A WAVE OF THE SEA, BLOWN AND TOSSED BY THE WIND. BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO PERSEVERES UNDER TRIAL BECAUSE, HAVING STAND THE TEST, THAT PERSON WILL RECEIVE THE CROWN OF LIFE THAT THE LORD HAS PROMISED TO THOSE WHO LOVE HIM. WHEN TEMPTED, NO ONE SHOULD SAY, "GOD IS TEMPTING ME," FOR GOD CANNOT BE TEMPTED BY EVIL, NOR DOES HE TEMPT ANYONE, BUT EACH PERSON IS TEMPTED WHEN THEY ARE DRAGGED AWAY BY THEIR OWN EVIL DESIRE AND ENTICED. THEN, AFTER DESIRE HAS CONCEIVED, IT GIVES BIRTH TO SIN, AND SIN, WHEN IT IS FULL-GROWN, GIVES BIRTH TO DEATH. DON'T BE DECEIVED, MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, FOR YOU DO NOT GIVE US BIRTH THROUGH THE WORD OF TRUTH, THAT WE MIGHT BE A KIND OF FIRSTFRUITS OF ALL HE CREATED. MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, TAKE NOTE OF THIS: EVERYONE SHOULD BE QUICK TO LISTEN, SLOW TO SPEAK AND SLOW TO BECOME ANGRY, BECAUSE HUMAN ANGER DOES NOT PRODUCE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT GOD DESIRES. THEREFORE, GET RID OF ALL MORAL FILTH AND EVIL THAT IS SO PREVALENT AND HUMBLY ACCEPT THE WORD PLANTED IN YOU, WHICH CAN SAVE YOU. DO NOT MERELY LISTEN TO THE WORD, AND SO RECEIVe YOURSELVES, DO WHAT IT SAYS. ANYONE WHO LISTENS TO THE WORD BUT DOES NOT DO WHAT IT SAYS IS LIKE SOMEONE WHO LOOKS AT HIS FACE IN A MIRROR AND, AFTER LOOKING AT HIMSELF, GOES AWAY AND IMMEDIATELY FORGETS WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE. BUT WHOEVER LOOKS INTENTLY INTO THE PERFECT LAW THAT GIVES FREEDOM, AND CONTINUES IN IT—NOT FORGETTING WHAT THEY HAVE HEARD, BUT DOING IT—THEY WILL BE BLESSED IN WHAT THEY DO. RELIGION THAT GOD OUR FATHER ACCEPTS AS PURE AND FAITHFUL IS THIS: TO LOOK AFTER ORPHANS AND WIDOWS IN THEIR DISTRESS AND TO KEEP ONESELF FROM BEING POLLUTED BY THE WORDS OF LIES. MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, BELIEVERS IN OUR GLORIOUS LORD JESUS CHRIST MUST NOT SHOW FAVORITISM. SUPPOSE A RICH MAN COMES INTO YOUR MEETING WEARING A GOLD RING AND FINE CLOTHES, AND A POOR MAN IN FILTHY OLD CLOTHES ALSO COMES. IF YOU SHOW SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE MAN WEARING FINE CLOTHES AND SAY, "HERE'S A GOOD SEAT FOR YOU," BUT SAY TO THE POOR MAN, "YOU STAND THERE" OR "SIT ON THE FLOOR," ARE YOU NOT DISCRIMINATING AMONG YOURSELVES AND BECOMING PARTNERS WITH EVIL THOUGHTS? LISTEN, MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS: HAS NOT GOD CHOSEN THOSE WHO ARE POOR IN THE EYE OF THE WORLD TO BE RICH IN FAITH AND TO INHERIT THE KINGDOM HE PROMISED THOSE WHO LOVE HIM? BUT YOU HAVE DISHONORED THE POOR. IS IT NOT THE RICH WHO ARE EXPLOITING YOU? ARE THEY NOT THE ONES WHO ARE DRAGGING YOU INTO COURT? ARE THEY NOT THE ONES WHO ARE BLASPHEMING THE NOBLE NAME OF HIM TO WHOM YOU BELONG? IF YOU REALLY KEEP THE ROYAL LAW FOUND IN SCRIPTURE, "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF," YOU ARE DOING RIGHT. BUT IF YOU SHOW FAVORITISM, YOU SIN AND ARE CONDEMNED BY THE LAW AS LAWBREAKERS. FOR WHOEVER KEEPS THE WHOLE LAW AND YET STUMBLES AT JUST ONE POINT IS GUILTY OF BREAKING ALL OF IT. FOR HE WHO SAID, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," ALSO SAID, "YOU SHALL NOT MURDER." IF YOU DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY BUT DO COMMIT MURDER, YOU HAVE BECOME A LAWBREAKER. SPEAK AND ACT AS THOSE WHO ARE GOING TO BE JUDGED BY THE LAW THAT GIVES FREEDOM, BECAUSE JUDGMENT WITHOUT MERCY WILL BE SHOWN TO ANYONE WHO HAS NOT BEEN FULL OF MERCY. MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGMENT. WHAT GOOD IS IT, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, IF SOMEONE CLAIMS TO HAVE FAITH BUT HAS NO DEEDS? CAN SUCH FAITH SAVE THEM? SUPPOSE A BROTHER OR A SISTER IS WITHOUT CLOTHES AND DAILY FOOD. IF ONE OF YOU SAYS TO THEM, "GO IN PEACE; KEEP WARM AND WELL FED," BUT DOES NOTHING ABOUT THEIR PHYSICAL NEEDS, WHAT GOOD IS IT?

NOT JUST SUGGESTIONS - JAMES

Just put your faith into practice!

James 2:14-26

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

²⁰ You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? ²¹ Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. ²⁴ You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

²⁵ In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? ²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

This whole passage is an affirmation of biblical faith, the faith that saves us and the faith that empowers our relationship with Christ

1. Faith without deeds is not saving faith

2. Faith without action is dead

3. Faith is more than dogma

4. Faith is expressed in action

5. The faith that saves is also seen

