

Perfecting Faith: The Book of James

Faith, Love and Mercy



Authentic Faith

James declares that authentic faith is blind to the differences and prejudices that divide, hurt and damage so many people. We are encouraged to live by faith, walk in love and triumph in mercy.

A. Live by Faith *James 2:1-7*

- How do you HOLD the faith? :1
For faith to 'hold' it must be in concert with love and mercy. *James 1:1; 1:8; 1:13*
- What destroys faith? :2-4
James continues the theme of being not only a hearer of God's word but also a doer. However, being a doer of the word means there are some things that we DO NOT do.
Partiality [favoritism] destroys faith.
 1. Male or female favoritism *Gal 3:26-28*
 2. One culture over another *Gal 3:28 John 4:25-27*
 3. Employer-employee *Eph 6:7-9*
 4. Age *1 Tim 4:12*
 5. Personal appearance *1 Sam 16:7*
 6. One sin over another *1 Cor 6:9-11; Mat 7:1-5*
- What revives faith? :5-7
I must see people as God sees them;
discernment without discrimination.
All are creations of God and He desires that they become members of His kingdom regardless of job status, wealth status, height or weight status, or race status.

B. Walk in Love *James 2:8-11*

Showing favoritism [being prejudice] violates the 'royal law' that, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." This means that we should care for others as ourselves. This was the 'royal' law because it belongs to the King (*Jesus*) and was king of all laws. *John 13:34; 15:12; Rom 13:8*

C. Triumph in Mercy *James 2:12-13*

1. If we do not show mercy to others, we are not walking in fellowship with God. See the Good Samaritan *Luke 10:25*
2. Mercy is always greater than judgment
3. Mercy assumes a need and the resources to meet the need. See Jesus feeding 5000 and 'moved with mercy [compassion]. *Matt 14:14*

How are You Holding the Faith?

James 2:1-13

:1 My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality.

:2 For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes,

:3 and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool,"

:4 have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

:5 Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

:6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts?

:7 Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?

:8 If you really fulfill *the* royal law according to the Scripture, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF," you do well;

:9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

:10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

:11 For He who said, "DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," also said, "DO NOT MURDER." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

:12 So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.

:13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.