

James

- James is the brother of Jesus Christ (Matt 13:55)
- He never calls himself Jesus' brother, instead he calls himself the servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ (James 1:1)
- James is the leader in Jerusalem church
- Written about AD 48
- James died martyr in AD 62

The book of James

- James is a general letter to Christians in general and not to any particular church
- Very little discussion on the doctrines, more to practical aspects of Christian life
- There are 50 imperatives/ commands in 108 verses
- James is interested in action rather than mere beliefs, sometimes sounded in a somewhat scolding manners
- In the midst of persecution and poverty, Jewish Christians have fallen into the worldly lifestyle, have failed to put their faith into practice, and they have become double minded, wavering between God and the world

Faith without works is Dead

- James 2: 14-17

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

- Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Faith without works is Dead

- Christians are saved by grace through faith in Christ, not by our works.
- Faith in Christ should result in good works.
- Faith in Christ is the root and good works is the fruit.

Saved --- > good works

- Compare to other religions: 5 pillar of Islam, Buddhism 8 fold path

Good works --- > can be saved

Faith without works is Dead

- James 2:22

You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works.

- James 2:20: Faith apart from works is useless
- James 2:26: Faith apart from works is dead
- There is a kind of apparent faith that is dead and does not save, the faith that is mere empty profession.
- Example: Abraham & Rahab

Hear and Doing the Word

- James 1:22-25

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

Hear and Doing the Word

- The Word is not just for us to listen but to do it.
- Doing in means resulting in actions.
- The Word changes your thinking, your heart and your actions.
- To know who is the real and true Christian is to just see their deeds and life
- I know it VS I do it
- Hearing the word without action is self-deceptive, while hearing and doing the word is a blessing
- Obedience is the hallmark of true child of God

Hear and Doing the Word

- Quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger
- Control of your tongue
- Put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness
- Have a pure and holy life
- Look after people who in needs
- Keep oneself from being polluted by the world, that is dominated by money, power and pleasure

A True Christian

- Your faith produces good works
- Your faith brings glory to God
- God's Words change your life
- God's Words applied in your life

Reflection

- What do people notice about you?
- Can they tell that you are a Christian?
- Does your life show that you are a Christian?
- Does your life set an example that will make others want to know the Lord?