

An Enduring Faith

Series: Faith That Works

October 18, 2015

INTRODUCTION

Today, we are starting a new sermon series on the Book of James called “Faith that Works.” Now, if you’ve ever wanted to know what faith should look like, or perhaps you’ve taken some time to really examine your faith and you realize that you need something more but don’t know where to start, then this book’s for you. In many ways, James is sort of like a practical how-to manual on how to exercise and live out our faith.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read James 1:1. James was the younger brother of Jesus Christ and yet he chose not to mention his blood relationship with Jesus. Rather, James addressed himself as a servant. Why do you think he chose address himself in this way? What does this reveal about James?
2. Read James 1:2-4. How does James want his readers to view their trials and hardships? Why should they view them in this way? How would you respond if someone told you to respond to difficulties in this manner?
3. Read James 1:5-8. In light of the previous verses, what kind of wisdom might James be referring to here? Why is it so important that we ask for wisdom during trials and difficulties?
4. Read James 1:9-11. In these verses James contrasts two different groups of people – the poor and the rich. Why would James bring up the issue of money in regards to trials and perseverance? How do money and finances often affect our faith?
5. In James 1:12 it says, “Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.” Share of a time when you were blessed as a result of persevering in your faith.

CONCLUSION

God, our Heavenly Father, loves us and He values our faith. His desire is for us to grow so that we can become the men and women He desires for us to be. However, in order to do this, He may need to bring some trials into our lives to test and strengthen us, so that we can have an enduring faith, a faith that works. May God give us the strength to stand firm in the midst of our trials, and may He give us the wisdom to best navigate through the storms of life.

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” – James 1:2-4