

SUMMER SERMON SERIES 2022

JAMES

FAITH ⊕ ACTION

Pt. 1

GRACE NORWALK

- **James is practical.**
 - **James is direct.**
 - **James is stretching.**
 - **James is encouraging.**
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- **James will challenge you to examine if your faith is real or fake**

I. Our faith must be tested.

- Psalm 17:3

*You have tried my heart, you have visited me by night,
you have tested me*

- Psalm 26: 1- 2

“Judge me, O LORD, for I have walked in mine integrity. I have trusted also in the Lord. Therefore I shall not slide. Examine me, O LORD, and prove me. Test my heart and my mind.”

I. Our faith must be tested.

- Psalm 139:23-24

“Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me and know my thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting,”

- Lamentations 3:40

- *“Let us search and test our ways and turn again to the Lord.”*

I. Our faith must be tested.

- Haggai 1:5-7
- *“Now therefore, thus saith the Lord of hosts” –
‘Consider your ways.*
- **6 You have sown much and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.**
- *“Thus saith the Lord of host,
‘Consider your ways.’” Think on your life, examine yourself.*

I. Our faith must be tested.

- 1 Corinthians 11:28
- *“Let a man examine himself,”*

- 2 Corinthians 13:5,
- *“Examine yourselves whether you are in the faith.”*

- James says that
- **1** ²³ *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. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ 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*

John MacArthur

- Verbal, intellectual claim to the truth is useless unless there is the demonstration of a transformed life that is marked by righteousness.
- And intellectual, ritualistic, external religiosity without the evidence of a transformed lifestyle frankly is an abomination to God and very common.

II. James had experienced the power of saving faith that results in a transformed life

- **James, son of Zebedee and brother of John**
 - A fisherman, he was called by Christ - Mt 4:17-22
 - Together with John, they were nicknamed “Sons of Thunder” because of their impulsiveness
 - Killed by Herod in 44 A.D. - Ac 12:1-2

II. James had experienced the power of saving faith that results in a transformed life

- **James, son of Alphaeus**

- Another of the apostles - Mt 10:3; Ac 1:12
- Very little is known about him
- There is no indication that this James wrote the epistle

II. James had experienced the power of saving faith that results in a transformed life

- James, father of Judas the apostle

He is even more obscure

One of the few references to him is found in Lk 6:16

II. James had experienced the power of saving faith that results in a transformed life

James, the brother of our Lord

- He is the most likely candidate for the author of this epistle
- Even though he humbly identifies himself only as “a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ” (1:1)
- That Jesus had a brother named James is evident –

Mt 13:55

- *⁵⁵ Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?*

- **Jn 7:5**

- *⁵ For not even his brothers believed in him.*

- **The Impact of the risen Christ**

- **1 Co 15:7.** *⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.*

- **Ac 1:14** *¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.*

The Book of James is not considered doctrinal, it is considered a practical book about Christian living that will help us examine ourselves.

- **1:2** “My brothers”. 16, 19 my beloved brothers.
- **2:1, 14** “My brothers”
- **3:1, 10, 12** “My brothers”
- **4:10** “Do not speak evil against each other “My Brothers”
- **5: 9, 10, 12, 19** “My brothers”

- **Verses = 108 - 54 imperatives**

Your Faith will be tested – Faith / Action

- 1:2-4. Your Faith will be tested by trials in your life
- 1:22. Your Faith will be tested by your attitude toward the teaching of the word of God.
- 2:1-13. Your Faith will be tested by the way you treat people.
- 2:14ff Your Faith will be tested by your actions
- 3:1 ff Your Faith will be tested by the way you talk about others
- 3:13. Your Faith will be tested by the way you make decisions in your life.

Your Faith will be tested – Faith / Action

- 4:1. Your Faith will be tested by your personality and attitude
- 4:13. Your Faith will be tested by the way you place God in your plans (Short or long term) ...
- 5 Your Faith will be tested by your attitude towards material things.

- Phil. 2:12. *“work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,”*

Katergazomai = get busy, be productive.

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