

Show Me Your Faith

James

This is the third installment of one of our hardest books arguably, although all battle with sin is hard.

We've talked about James and who he was. It is interesting he would write this book --- growing up as a brother of Jesus and not knowing who Jesus was --- being an unbeliever --- then being promoted to the head of the Christ followers in the most important city of all of Israel. What an honor!

Envision James growing up. What type of person was Jesus from ages 1 - 30? He was probably very spiritual. Then picture this: your brother comes out and says, "I am the Christ, the Messiah," essentially - God. Imagine the confusion.

John 7:1-7

Imagine when he realized it was true. I imagine someone working twice as hard to prove his faith.

Martin Luther called James the epistle of straw and put it in the appendix of his bible --- why: --
- because of this:

James 2:14-26

1. What do you believe about this issue?

2. What does the rest of the bible say about this issue?

Well, let's see here.....

Romans 3:27-31

Romans 4

James really pushes that issue through doesn't he?

James 1:21 - 27

3. Does this ever describe you? How so?

Think of our studies or of God's revelations to you personally. Do you fully do what you know you should? A hearer and a doer? What about a sometimes doer?

Well, in that day and age there were many in the church that were saying "I am saved by faith; I don't have to do anything else."

Ephesians 2:8-10

'For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.'

Very definitive.

4. What does this mean to you?

5. What is the most important work that you do for God?

You **SHOULD** walk in them. God is intently interested in your participation in kingdom work. Faith can do *God-sized* things!!

Luke 17:20-21

Luke 17:3 - 10

That's a whole other lesson.

Romans 11:6

***'And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise, grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works it is no longer grace; otherwise, work is no longer work.'* NKJV**

6. How do you show others your faith?

Act like you have faith - with ACTION and EVIDENCE.

Let's pray that God would strengthen our desire to do whatever the Holy Spirit asks.

Next week --- 1st Peter.