

James: A Faith You Can See
Triumphing in the Battle Within
James 1:12-18
Senior Pastor Byron MacDonald

A life compelled by the love of Jesus

Trials and temptations are an unavoidable part of daily life, v. 12.

The love of Jesus compels those in love with Him to stay faithful in the battle for influence in daily life, v. 12.

Faithfulness is compelled in part in daily life, by the longing for the crown of life (the reward of God's "Well done" when life in this world is over), v. 12.

A life of winning the battle in the mind, vv. 13-15.

The one who loves Jesus also recognizes the world, the flesh, and the Devil seek to be the influence in the choices of daily life, v. 13.

Sin starts with a desire that begins to occupy thoughts, v. 14.

If the desires of the world, the flesh, and the Devil are won, in the choosing of the desires of Jesus over evil desires, the battle is over, v. 14.

If the desires of the world, the flesh, and the Devil continue to occupy thoughts and passions they will result in actions that are sinful, v. 15.

When sin is acted on it brings death; the absence of the blessing and life of God and consequences that bring harm, loss, and emptiness, v. 15.

A life compelled by God's goodness and gifts

God would never tempt anyone to sin, as His character has not even a shadow of evil. God is pure in His goodness and His desire to bring the blessings of His goodness into daily life, v. 17.

God gives daily gifts out of His goodness and His desire to bless, v. 17.

Salvation by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is both the beginning and the ultimate expression of the gifts flowing from God's goodness, v. 17.

Next Weekend's Scripture Emphasis
James 1:19-27

Welcome to Rolling Hills Covenant Church!

We are a caring community of people who believe the Bible is the Word of God and choose to live by its truth.

**Our mission is to know Jesus intimately
and to share His love and truth passionately.**

June 23-24, 2018

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Following each worship service, members of the prayer team will be available in front of the platform to pray with you and minister to your spiritual needs.

Receivers for the hearing impaired are available from our ushers.

JOIN US NEXT WEEKEND!

SATURDAY: 5pm - Worship Center
SUNDAY: 8 & 9:30am - Worship Center (Choir)
9:30am - 290s
11:15am - Worship Center & 290s

LANGUAGE OPTIONS:

RHCC en Español
Saturday, 5pm, 290s
Japanese Service
Sunday, 11:15am
North Campus Chapel



Join Rooted and Get Connected with others at RHCC!

Over the course of 10 weeks, you will meet with a group of people to talk about what God has been revealing to you as you go through readings, journal entries, and prayer. Experience life in Him that is marked by community, authenticity and generosity. Our Summer session begins June 26. Pick up a brochure in the seat backs or Welcome Center.

For more information about what is going on at RHCC this month, pick up a copy of *What's Happening*.

Patriotic Celebration

Invite your friends and family to join us on Sunday, July 1 at 7 pm for this popular patriotic musical celebration featuring our Sanctuary Choir, children's choir, and orchestra, along with the Marine Corps Color Guard.

Meet Our Missionaries

Come meet Victoria and Barrett Harkins on Sunday, June 24 at 1 pm in Carlson Hall. They will give us a brief update on their work in Uppsala, Sweden. A light lunch will be served.

Widow's Group

If you are a woman struggling with the loss of your husband, we invite you to join us as we journey together to rediscover our purpose, value and strength. Fridays, June 29 and July 27 from 9 to 11 am in Room 301, North Campus.

Jobs Available

- Information Technology Director (F/T)
- Accounting Assistant (P/T)
- Global Outreach Admin. Asst. (P/T)

Go to RollingHillsCovenant.com/jobs for info.

Missionary Needs

Nancy Manoly is in need of a car and housing July 12-23. If you can help with either need, please contact Nandi at nroszhart@rhcc.net or 310.521.5274.

Prayer Ministry

Homegoings:

- Pray for Janet McCardle and family on the homegoing of Janet's husband, Mac.
- The Celebration of Life for James Tomlin, husband of Tamra Tomlin, will be held Tuesday, July 10 at 10:30 am in the North Campus Chapel.

Prayer Chain: Submit prayer requests to Vicki Hardin at Chaplain_Vicki@aol.com or 310.612.7832, by yellow card or at RollingHillsCovenant.com/prayer.

Need a hospital or home visit? Call the Ministers of Congregational Care at 323.825.9694.

Weekly Giving Report (as of June 10)

Giving goal (6/1/17-5/31/18):	\$7,930,000
Budget Needs YTD:	\$365,947
Received YTD:	\$413,119
Over/Under YTD:	\$47,172
Needed last week:	\$121,982
Received last week:	\$105,449

Text any amount to 310.307.3661 to give.

In the last two weeks I was able to lead two leadership seminars in Vietnam. A key ministry partner Asian Access, has the vision to develop a repeating ministry of two-year pastoral learning seminars for leadership development throughout Asia. The goal is to bring leaders from a nation together in a class that meets four times a year for two years. The desire is to help equip and mentor pastors in leadership skills and to bring leaders together from across denominations. The effort is to build bonds of fellowship and encouragement among pastors. The effort is also to join together with God in a vision for the Gospel for their country. This is the fourth leadership class in Vietnam and I have been privileged to lead a seminar in each of the last three classes. I believe this is an important and vital ministry. I can see the growing bonds of partnership among pastors, the sharing of burdens, and a vision and passion for the Gospel in Vietnam.

Vietnam is ruled by a communist government that is often in opposition to the church. It has an official recognized church, the Christian Missionary Alliance, but it is subject to government control which is very restraining on the freedom of the church. Most churches are unregistered but there is a major effort by the government to register them all. There is great concern as to what becoming a recognized church will mean. The desire of the government to control and suppress is very ominous and concerning to church leaders. The hostility towards the church is particularly strong against outreach to any of the 52 tribal groups in Vietnam. Tribal groups, in general, are oppressed and viewed as threats by the government so any effort to reach them with the Gospel is strongly opposed.

As this is my third time to Vietnam over a six year period, it is encouraging to sense a strong moving of God in the country. I see in some key ways the church moving from a focus on survival to a spirit of growing boldness for the Gospel. I heard some amazing stories of God moving even among communist military officers. I hear of real movements of God among people groups. I hear of humble yet courageous leaders who are stepping out with boldness.

God really spoke to me during the two weeks about the church here in Southern California. I am wondering if we are too focused on ourselves. I wonder if we make our efforts more about making church pleasing to us and that we have a diminished sense of vision and passion to reach our neighbors and communities for Christ. I know many of you have a passion for the lost and I know there are many ways we are seeking to focus on outreach. But I think there are new ways in which we need to focus our church on our Lord Jesus Christ's mission of seeking the lost to bring them to salvation and life in Christ. Jesus was concerned about the 99 sheep that were safely home at night, but He had a greater concern for the one sheep lost in the night.

As we look at our mission field of the South Bay, there are about 750,000 people living in over 220,000 residences. Of all the areas in the USA we have among the lowest levels of church attendance. We also have, living around us, many people who have never really understood who Jesus is, what the Gospel is, and that Christianity is, not a western religion but the opportunity for people of all nations to come into a saving relationship with God, through His Son Jesus, to find forgiveness of sins, life and an escape from the judgment that is coming to all people who live and die without a saving relationship with God through Jesus and the cross. Let's pray about how God could move us with fresh passion and boldness to bring the Gospel to our neighbors. Let's believe that the church is not about survival but about seizing the moment with a boldness and confidence that God is mighty to save and longing to see us join Him with His plans that will be accomplished by His power. I would also love to see us have an expansion of our global efforts to reach the nations for the Gospel. Wouldn't it be great to be able to increase our global budget to join with the amazing ways God is moving in our world! Let's join the church in Vietnam and, by faith, seize the moment in time that God has set before us.

~ Senior Pastor Byron MacDonald

We're here for you! The pastoral staff at RHCC is available to help you with your marriage, finances, parenting, emotional issues, or if you are in need of prayer. We can also provide recommendations for Christian counseling services in the South Bay. Contact Pastor Nate Aanderud at 310.521.2565 or naanderud@rhcc.net.

Pastor Byron welcomes your questions/comments at bmacdonald@rhcc.net