

**Homework Challenge for the week:** Pray and meditate on Philippians 4:19, 1 John 3:17, and 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. Ask God to show you how you might better serve Him by serving others and His church.

# JAMES:

## A SERVANT OF GOD

*Connection Point Groups  
Week #4*

### **PRAYER REQUESTS/PRAISES FOR THIS WEEK:**

(Missionary of the Week: Paul & Sarah Johnson in Japan)

### **CONNECTION POINT GROUPS PURPOSE STATEMENT:**

Developing lifelong relationships that influence others to live and love like Jesus.

**TONIGHT'S TEXT: JAMES 1:19-27** *“What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?”*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Suppose a friend was always going on and on about how wonderful their spouse is and the depth of their relationship, but you never saw relational warmth between them. You'd be correct in questioning the nature of that relationship. Simply put, love and faith in another produces action that affirms the presence of said love and faith. So it is with faith and works. Those who truly understand what God has done for them cannot help but be moved to live a generous, worshipful life.



**FAITHWAY** Planting A Passion For God  
BAPTIST CHURCH

This section of James is full of controversy, we are told elsewhere in Scripture, especially the passages written by the Paul, that God's grace alone saves us (Eph. 2:8-9). Yet James seems to be saying that good works play a role in our salvation. The Bible doesn't contradict itself - how can this be?

### **DIGGING DEEPER INTO THE TEXT:**

Read the passage carefully. Note the practical examples James uses to illustrate the main idea of the passage, that faith apart from works is a dead faith.

1. In verses 14-17, James is speaking of a faith largely based on lip service without actions that back up the professed belief. What does he call this kind of faith?
2. Read verses 18-19. What does this section tell us is necessary for faith?

### **INTERPRETATION OF THE TEXT:**

Let's now look at the passage alongside other Scriptures as we interpret the passage through the whole Scripture.

1. Read Matthew 12:33-37. Jesus is addressing the issue of works here with Pharisees. What does He name as the source of their actions?
2. Read Luke 3:7-14. What does John the Baptist instruct the people to do? How does he describe these acts in verse 8?

3. Read Galatians 5:6. What does it say faith does?
4. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:3. How are the works of believers described here? What is prompting them?
5. Read Hebrews 11:1-6 and Romans 14:23. What gives value to our faith?

### **APPLYING THIS BIBLE PASSAGE TO OUR LIVES:**

The English Puritan Thomas Manton said, "There are three things that encourage the soul to carry our duty; a **strong principle**, a **mighty aid**, a **high aim**; all these exist where faith is. The example of God's love, the mighty aid is God's Spirit, the high aim is God's glory."

1. Of these three, which do you struggle with most in carrying out your worship of God through works? How will you seek to worship God rightly in this area?
2. James admonishes his hearers for their phony faith that wasn't demonstrated in practical acts of worship. If your faith was proved merely by how you live, would your deeds more reflect worship of God or worship of self?
3. When we are hindered from engaging in acts of faith that bear fruit, it is often an issue of our heart's condition, not a lack of resources or ability. Do you depend solely on yourself to meet the needs of others instead of on God?