

“Manual for Christian Living – James”

Text: James 1

Matthew 22:36-40 says: ³⁶ “Teacher, which command in the law is the most important?” ³⁷ Jesus answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and most important command. ³⁹ And the second command is like the first: ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ ⁴⁰ All the law and the writings of the prophets depend on these two commands.”

1. As followers of Christ, we have been called to a _____ way of living.
2. Once we accept Christ as our personal Savior, we make the commitment to begin a journey of _____ for the remainder of our lives.
3. In the course of our journey of faith development, we will _____ new beliefs, be _____ in the way we think & reason, take on new _____.

Think about how we are described as followers of Christ in the Bible:

4. We are God's _____.
5. We are His _____.
6. We are a ‘_____’ people.
7. We belong to a _____ priesthood.
8. We are a _____ people.
9. We are a people _____ to God.
10. We are _____ with Christ.

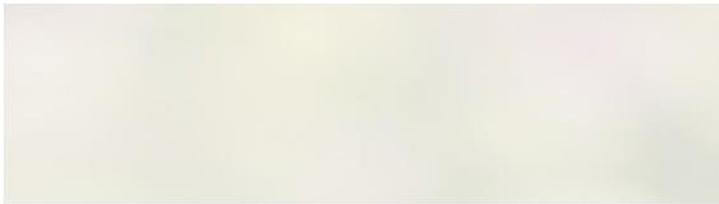
11. The book of James looks a bit like the Old Testament book of Proverbs dressed up in “New Testament clothes”. Its consistent focus is on _____ action in the life of the Christian, encouraging God’s people to _____ like God’s people.
12. James makes no excuses for those who do not _____ up. In the mind of this early church leader, Christians evidence their faith by walking in _____ ways and not others.

James 2:17 - **“¹⁷faith by itself — that does nothing — is dead.”**

13. Who is the author? The writer of this epistle (_____) is James, also called James the Just, who is thought to be the _____ of Jesus Christ (Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3).
14. James was not a believer (John 7:3-5) until _____ Christ’s resurrection (Acts 1:14; 1 Corinthians 15:7; Galatians 1:19).
15. He became the _____ of the Jerusalem church and is mentioned 1st as a _____ of the church (Galatians 2:9).
16. What is the purpose of this book?
 - A. James is directed to _____ Christians scattered among all the nations (James 1:1). James was writing to Jews to _____ them to continue growing in this new Christian faith.
 - B. James emphasizes that _____ actions will naturally flow from those who are filled with the Spirit and questions whether someone may or may not have a saving faith if the _____ of the Spirit cannot be seen, much as Paul describes in Galatians 5:22-23a: **“²² But the Spirit produces the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control....”**

17. What is the summary of James? The Book of James outlines the faith walk through _____ religion (1:1-27), genuine _____ (2:1-3:12) and genuine _____ (3:13-5:20).
- A. James begins in the 1st chapter by describing the overall _____ of the faith walk.
 - B. In chapter 2 and the beginning of chapter 3 he discusses social _____ and a discourse on faith in action.
 - C. He then compares and contrasts the difference between worldly and godly _____ and asks us to turn _____ from evil and draw close to God.
 - D. James gives a particularly severe _____ to the rich who hoard and those who are self-reliant.
 - E. Finally he ends with _____ to believers to be patient in suffering, praying and caring for one another and bolstering our faith through fellowship.
18. What are the practical application to these teachings? We see in James a challenge to faithful followers of Jesus Christ to not just “talk the talk,” but to “_____ the _____.”
19. The epistle also puts to rest the idea that one can become a Christian and yet continue living in sin, exhibiting ___ fruit of righteousness. Such a “faith,” James declares, is shared by the demons who “believe and tremble” (James 2:19). Yet such a “faith” _____ save because it is not verified by the works that always accompany true saving faith (Ephesians 2:10).
20. Good works are not the cause of salvation, but they are the _____ of it.

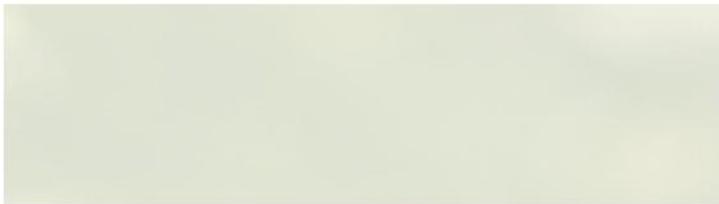
21. How do we apply these truths? We have to _____ ask ourselves: “How well do our actions _____ the faith we proclaim?” We must focus on those areas that he mentioned: your actions during trials, your treatment of those less fortunate, the way you speak and relate to others, and the role that money plays in how you live your life.



Faith without works is like a
song you can't sing. It's
about as useless as a screen
door on a submarine.

Rich Mullins

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