

Last week we started a new series walking through James: We said a few things that are important about the book.

James is a book that has a lot of commands...it's pointing to obedience, written to believers

James intends to help see what happens when Life and Faith collide.

What happens James would say is that FAITH WORKS...in the midst of any situation, FAITH WORKS.

Another way to say it is this.....as believers, followers of Christ...WE DO.... BUT WHAT DO WE DO?

That's James....James helps us see this....what WE DO as FAITH WORKS....As Faith & Life collide.

2 key things for us as we go through this book to continually ask

1. Is Faith present in my life? Am I a follower of Christ? (book is written to followers) **if so, then this....**
2. How is Faith Working in my life...where are the fruits...what does it look like when my faith & my life collide?

Tonight specifically we can ask this: What does it look like for my faith to persevere? When trial/temptations come.

Our Main Focus: God allows trials and temptations to come and both are intended to complete us in Christ.

We have a few different things working in this section but the focus is no doubt the issue of trials and temptations.

We have those right? You ever go through a trial? Some are going through some major ones right now.

You ever been tempted? We all are tempted at every step it seems...

Why do we go through these things? Why doesn't God just make it to where we don't go through this?

Why not just give us blinders so we walk through life and only see and experience good?

Wouldn't life be so much better?

James would say no....why?

Because God allows these to come in order to complete us in Christ...to strengthen us.

Because this world is filled with sin...the enemy lurks and is seeking to straight up kill you (1 Peter 5:8)

The only way to walk in this life is through Faith...allow Faith to Work...in that we do...we preserve.

All the while...God is helping, strengthening, completing us through every step.

So how do we walk through trials and temptations? That's the hope & wisdom James wants us to see.

1. We go Joyfully – v2 – We walk joyfully...what does that even look like? How do I walk joyfully.

It's us walking in every situation in life KNOWING...it's a KNOWING EMOTION...I walk in Joy because I KNOW some things.

LOOK AT v.3-4 – This trial, this issue **will produce patience** and when patience finishes...**maturity comes**, I'm complete.

The work God is doing is only a work God can do...FAITH WORKS...let it work in you. This brings JOY.

The opposite is you walk through this without faith...then the trial tempts you to walk away. BE DONE!

I know what you're thinking....I can't think this way...it's so hard....**I SO AGREE**...but keep reading. **V.5**

2. We go in God's Wisdom - Ask God to give wisdom to see what's going on & and wisdom to know how to respond.

This is not some Solomon like prayer...this is specific to trials...**Give me wisdom to walk through this.**

But how do I ask? IN FAITH...why? FAITH WORKS...but you can't doubt God...you have to believe HE WILL

You can't act on half empty faith...you must be confident (otherwise your as unstable as the sea) **vv. 6-8**

You go out like that and you'll be confused, doubting and unsure of any step you take...

I walk in JOY in the midst of trials...knowing HE HAS SO WE DO....He even gives us the wisdom to see this...if we ask.

3. We go in Humility – vv.9-11 – The poor/ The Rich....nothing you have or lack will provide what you need.

Only God can give what you need...rely on him...if you boast...boast in Christ...He truly is all you have/need.

Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to the cross I cling...this is the attitude...wisdom give us this..we act on it.

This is saying this: there's nothing you can have or gain that will bring what God brings...use it, don't allow it to use you.

4. We go Trusting – v.12 – After all we've heard is there really any other good option?

When Faith works – We are trusting. This is the only option...trust all you know...seek all you don't, from Him.

But the opposite of TRUSTING would be what? NOT TRUSTING....

When we don't trust we make excuses...blame others....maybe even God...that's where James is going here. **V. 13**

When we take our eyes off Jesus we begin to blame Him for the wrong in our lives...James says...this ain't God.

So where does it come from? Vv. 14-15

DECEPTION – Gen. 3 - not Trusting God but trusting DESIRE.

DESIRE - temptation takes natural desire & disguises it into something shameful & evil

DISOBEDIENCE – We give in, we excuse and we go back for more.

DEATH – Strong word. But Sin Kills...it brings death...not like...you're not breathing but like an emptiness,

It brings nothingness....loss....sorrow...all that death brings....so check yourself before you wreck yourself.

5. We go in truth – vv.16-18 – What's the truth...GOD GIVES THE ONLY TRULY PERFECT GIFT. Don't be deceived/tricked

Only God gives the perfect gift....Ultimately it's JESUS right? **So how do we go after that?**

We attack each day...with Joy – with Wisdom – with Humility – we Trust – resting in the truth of who God is.

Attack the day in this way and you'll see FAITH WORKING in you in ways you could never explain.

You'll see your Faith persevering to the point that others will see God's work in you and glorify Him.

So WHAT NOW?: Practically...What do we do? We get up...we walk it out...we work out this salvation.

Attack the day – KNOW TRUTH (get in the word) – Apply Truth — Choose joy – TRUST GOD

God has saved us from our sin and He will see us through our sorrow – NOW how do we do this today? GROUP TIME - ?'s on card