

JAMES: FAITH IN ACTION

Dear Friend:

Do you know much about the book of James? I will confess, I do not know as much about it as I should. Sometimes I just see it as one of the smaller letters between two very deep books: Hebrews and Revelation. That's too bad because it has a tremendous depth about living the Christian life.

Many people do not realize a couple of important things in the overview of James. Written probably in the early 60's A.D., James is a book that says it over and over: faith is not a static (no motion) thing, faith is action. As a matter of fact, multiple times in the Greek language in both James and the New Testament, you will find the word "faith" as a verb. The verb form of faith is *pisteuo* = faith in action (more about that in a minute). The author of James (James) is the half-brother of Jesus (remember, Jesus' father is God). James is the brother of Jude. James was firmly the leader of the early church. The target audience was persecuted Jewish Christians scattered around the Roman world.

The key verse of James is James 2:18, "But someone will say, You have faith; I have deeds. Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do". Faith in Action. James addresses faith in action throughout his letter. Chapter 1 = face persecution in faith. Chapter 2 = treat all persons with equal value as human beings and love your neighbor as yourself. Chapter 3 = tame your tongue. Chapter 4 = do not be friends with the world. Chapter 5 = do not oppress others, anoint the sick and pray with them.

There is much to unpack in James, there is much about faith in action. Through June and early July, we are going to walk our way through James. I want to preach it though, not as an academic exercise but as a hear and spirit changing movement of God in your life!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayer: Grace Irwin (93-year-old with shingles), Sarah Adams (death of her son), Camie Montoya (surgery setback), Pastor Dan Kopp and Family (housefire)

Events: Communion this Sunday; Women's Ministry – Thursday, June 15th