

What It Means To Be A Christian Through Faith

(James 2)

Introduction:

1. Last week we looked at the what James writes about being a Christian through trials.
2. James continues his thoughts in writing about “What it means to be a Christian through faith.”

I. What Is Faith?

- A. “Believing in something you cannot see.”
- B. “Faith makes us sure of what we hope for and gives us proof of what we cannot see” (Contemporary English Version).
- C. (Hebrews 11:1)
- D. (Hebrews 11:6)

II. Faith and Discrimination

- A. (James 2:1-13)
- B. The faith that is held in God, in Christ, is not a discriminatory faith (James 2:1).
 1. Men can discriminate for many things: race, wealth, social class, etc.
- C. James wants Christians to know that God has chosen the poor to be wealthy (James 2:5)
- D. Wealth will get in the way of many people’s salvation (Matthew 19:16-30).

III. Faith and Actions

- A. (James 2:14-26)
- B. How do people know that we are Christians (Matthew 5:13-16).
 1. (Proverbs 11:28)
- C. True Christian faith is belief and actions to back up your beliefs (James 2:19-20).
- D. Our actions determine people’s judgements. Our actions are results of our mind.
- E. “We walk by faith and not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7)
 1. Why? (2 Corinthians 4:18)

Conclusion:

1. Being a Christian through faith means that our faith will be:
 - a. Steadfast
 - b. Growing
 - c. Living
2. After all, the just or the righteous, shall live by faith (Galatians 3:11).