

James: A Faith That Walks (Introduction - James 1:1)

1. A Faith that Walks (James 2:14-20)

A. Faith _____ – testing determines validity/genuineness (*Psalm 17:3; 2Cor 13:5*)

1. Christian faith is **not** a blind leap into nothingness; but a step onto the Word of God
2. Obeying God's Word in the midst of trials/persecution shows the truth of what faith we have!
**Mk 4:16-17; James 1:22; John 14:21*
3. The illusion of salvation, explained by Jesus: *Matt 7:13-14, 15-23, 24-27*
**verbal, intellectual consent to facts is NOT living, saving faith; *Ja 2:14-20, 26*

B. _____ faith vs. Living faith – do we say we have faith, or, actually live God's Word? **1John 1:6-7*

1. What does sunlight and drought do to the roots of a tree? _____
2. According to Jesus, and all Scripture, what do trials/suffering/hurt do to a make believer, or possessor of dead faith? _____
3. According to Jesus, and all Scripture, what do trials/suffering/pain do to a true believer, or possessor of living, walking faith? _____
**Psalm 1:1-6; 2Cor 12:7-10; 1Pe 1:6-7*
4. Living Faith – Verified: *verified by _____, not perfection, but by _____ in obedience, righteousness and love, excelling more and more, in and through trials/pain/difficulty

2. Excel Still More (1Thess 4:1-3)

A. God's Will is our sanctification – that we grow in living faith – doing godly works/obeying Bible

1. What growth did the pain, struggles and trials of 2025 bring in intimacy w/ Christ and obedience to His Word? Prayer? Purity? Holiness? Love and devotion to the local church???
2. God's list in 1Thess 4,5 and book of James ...how are you doing? _____
3. What about Christmas? Christ's humiliation to come rescue us; what gratitude did it bring?

B. Gratitude and love to Christ motivates us to grow, or “run to win”!

1. *1Tim 4:7-9; 1Cor 9:24-27* – run to win, means total _____ w/ all our might!
2. *Isaiah 6:1-8* – how did God's forgiveness motivate Isaiah?

C. Those who aim at nothing, will hit it every time... What are your strides forward? Goals for 2026?

1. Personal relationship w/ Christ: His Word, prayer, giving
2. Unity/relationship w/ local church: not more activity, more love for God's people! Eph 2:1-5
**this directly affects your relationship w/ Christ!!!*
3. Loving your spouse and your family
4. Christ-likeness at work and in community
5. Love for the lost: Isaiah and *1Tim 1:15*
6. Other...write down specifics: