

08/08/26 Message

Part of Real ReligionA Journey Through the Book of James
August 8, 2026

Message: Knowing Isn't Enough

Series: Real Religion

Background

This series is an exposition of the book of James, written by Jesus' brother who "found faith" after His death, burial, and resurrection. James was writing to a persecuted church, and he wanted them to understand the difference between man-made religion and true, genuine, real religion.

We see something happen in James that should be what happens to us once we grasp who Jesus really is. James became full of the Holy Spirit who lit a fire inside him that made people notice this man was changed!

—Pastor Chad

James is shouting:

- Walking with Jesus is not about RELIGION it's about RELATIONSHIP!

I Know

James 4:13-17 (NLT)

13 Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit."

14 How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone.

15 What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that."

16 Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil.

17 Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do

it.

God frequently looks at us saying, stop trying to do this without Me! I've found that I come to God when I've hit a wall, fell into a hole, or in some way have an obstacle I can't see past. But as long as I'm just floating along, I'm treading water, and I think everything is good. Again, God says, stop trying to do this without Me! As I was writing this, it hit me, one thing that drives me absolutely nuts is when someone asks a question and I answer it, and they come back with, "I know." Or maybe, I see someone doing something wrong, working harder instead of working smarter, and I try to help, and they say, "I know." How often does our lives tell God, "I know." "I know" is the equivalent of saying, I've got this, I don't need you. Whether intended or not, it's the truth. And it's the ultimate slap in the face when someone is trying to help. I'm thankful God doesn't get ticked off like I do... Or does He? I'm thankful God doesn't throw up His hands and walk away... Or does He? He might, but the Bible teaches us He won't abandon us. That means as frustrated as He may get with us, His love for us is greater than His desire to give up on us!

—Pastor Chad

Break it Down James

Point 1

James 4:13-14 (NLT)

13 Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit."

14 How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone.

- CERTAINTY in anything but GOD is misplaced

James 4:15 (NLT)

What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that."

- Speak SURRENDER instead of AUTONOMY

James 4:16 (NLT)

Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil.

- Leaving God OUT reveals ARROGANCE

James 4:17 (NLT)

Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

- KNOWING isn't ENOUGH

*Perhaps a better way to translate this verse would be,
knowing the right thing to do and not doing it is a sin just
like knowing the wrong thing to do and doing it is a sin!*

—Pastor Chad

Wrap Up

*Knowing it is one thing, but living it is entirely different.
James is teaching us to LIVE IT LIKE YOU KNOW IT! I'll
say it differently, LIVE IT BECAUSE YOU KNOW IT!
James says something that shakes us up a bit. Sin is not
only found in bad decisions, it's found in undecided ones.
Sin is found in good intentions that never become actions.*

—Pastor Chad

- It's possible to know the truth about God and still live as though it weren't true.
- It's possible to know that God is real yet live as if He never was.

Knowing isn't enough!