

## Faith Resolutions

### Week 4: I Will Not Favor One Person Over Another

#### Series:

- Week 1: I Will Endure Trials (James 1:1-12)
- Week 2: I Will Trust God During Temptation (James 1:13-18)
- Week 3: I Will Hear and Obey God's Word (James 1:19-27)
- Week 4: I Will Not Favor One Person Over Another (James 2:1-13)
- Week 5: I Will Demonstrate Faith by Belief and Works (James 2:14-26)
- Week 6: I Will Speak with Self-Control (James 3:1-12)
- Week 7: I Will Live in God's Wisdom (James 3:13-18)
- Week 8: I Will Draw Near to God (James 4:1-10)
- Week 9: I Will Not Be Arrogant (James 4:11-17)
- Week 10: I Will Not Oppress (James 5:1-6)
- Week 11: I Will Be Patient (James 5:7-12)
- Week 12: I Will Pray in Faith (James 5:13-18)
- Week 13: I Will Help Restore Those Who are Wandering (James 5:19-20)

#### Scripture:

James 1:19-27

#### Motivation (Why You Need to Know It):

What is a resolution? It's a decision and determination *to do* or *not do* something.

Scripture is full of resolutions.

James wrote about resolutions that every Christian should have as a part of their life.

#### **Three Steps to a Resolution -**

- **A Decision to Change** (this is not enough by itself)
- **A Plan to Progress** (where the real work happens)
- **A Commitment to Endure** (Some quit at the first sign of failure)

Most never move past the first step because they don't prepare for the next two steps.

We'll be talking about the *13 Faith Resolutions in the book of James*.

Fourth Faith Resolution – I Will Not Favor One Person Over Another.

## Information (What You Need to Know):

Genuine faith results in treating all people equally.

If our mission is to obey God, here is how His Word describes His actions.

**Romans 2:11 (NLT)** For God does not show favoritism.

**Romans 5:8 (NLT)** ...God showed his great love for us... while we were still sinners.

**Ephesians 4:32 (NLT)** ...be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

## Three Steps to a Resolution:

**Decision to Change - I will love all rather than favor a few**

**James 2:1 (NLT)** My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others?

- Favoritism is *elevating someone based on their appearance, financial situation, color of skin, cultural background, political leaning, or social status*
- Favoritism was a problem in the early church and also in the modern-day church

*Ways favoritism is manifested –*

- Intolerance (Expecting agreement from people)
- Ignorance (Lacking awareness of people)
- Arrogance (Assigning value to people)

## Plan to Progress

- Look for what unites instead of what divides

**James 2:2 (NLT)** For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting [*synagogue*] dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes. **3** If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, “You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor”—well, **4** doesn’t this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives?

- Value faith over financial status

**James 2:5 (NLT)** Listen to me, dear brothers and sisters. Hasn’t God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren’t they the ones who will inherit the Kingdom he promised to those who love him? **6** But you dishonor the poor! Isn’t it the rich who oppress you and drag you into court? **7** Aren’t they the ones who slander Jesus Christ, whose noble name you bear?

- Love your neighbor as yourself

**James 2:8 (NLT)** Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

## **A Commitment to Endure – *I will live a life of compassion***

**James 2:13 (NLT)** There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others. But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you.

- Those who don't demonstrate mercy will not receive God's mercy
- Those who show mercy will receive God's mercy

### **Application (What You Need To Do):**

***What does treating everyone equally look like for our church?***

- **No one sits alone** (I will keep my eyes open)
- **Always speak** (I will keep my lips moving)
- **Inviting and including is our lifestyle** (I will keep my hands extended)