

20 Years
A Call to 3-D Faith
James 1-5

Biblical FAITH—what we _____ about God’s mercy to us through Jesus Christ (His person and His works) that is based on God’s own testimony and that results in _____

True saving faith transforms our view of:

PERSONAL DIFFICULTIES (James 1:1-18)

Truth: The stretching of our faith produces spiritual staying power.

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. (1:2-3)

Impact: We see our difficulties as reasons to rejoice.

Our Desire: To be marked by _____ rather than _____

DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE (James 2:1-13)

Truth: Faith in Jesus and partiality are mutually exclusive

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. (2:1)

Impact: We value the disadvantaged

Our Desire: To gravitate toward _____ without a _____ mindset

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS (James 2:14-26)

Truth: True faith in Jesus Christ produces good works

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? (2:14)

Impact: We see our creed and the investment of our lives as thoroughly connected

Our Desire: To be skeptical of _____ that is disconnected from _____

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together in Christ—by grace you have been saved through faith . . . and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.

Ephesians 2:4-10

Faith is more than orthodoxy—not *fides* merely, but *fiducia*, personal trust and confidence in God’s mercy through Christ; it is not a meritorious work, but rather an appropriating instrument, and empty hand outstretched to receive the free gift of God’s righteousness in Christ. Faith is God-given, and is itself the animating principle from which love and good works spontaneously spring, and communion with God means, not an exotic rapture of mystical ecstasy, but just faith’s everyday commerce with the Savior. J.I. Packer