

Freedom Writers Part 7: James

(Romans 15:4 NIV) For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

James

(James 2:14-17 ESV) What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

James: Faith without works is dead.

(James 1:21-22 NLT) "So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says."

✓ Believing in Jesus personally leads us to obey Him publicly.

(James 1:25 NASB) "But the one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does."

✓ Effectual - to influence, leave an impression, to produce.

(James 1:26-27 NLT) "If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you."

✓ Actions speak louder than words.

(James 2:18-22 NLT) Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds." You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless? Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete.

✓ The fruit of a saved person is serving other people.

Serving To Make A Difference

1. Who?

(James 1:27 NASB) "This is Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world."

(James 2:8-9 NASB) "If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors."

2. What?

(James 1:22 NASB) "But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves."

(James 4:13-15 NASB) "Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that."

3. Where?

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

4. How?

(James 3:16 NASB) "For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing."