

SESSION 10
JAMES 2.14-17

In the previous session James completes his exhortation to us regarding the sin of partiality highlighting the truth that the Law (Lev 19.18 + Deut 6.4-5) is a unity, and like a chain, if we break one command, one link in the chain, we break the entire Law and are condemned because God is infinitely holy and demands that same holiness of us. But thanks be to God that He provides for us in our desperate need the infinitely pure blood of Christ shed for the forgiveness of our sin, and Christ received within us fulfils the Law perfectly (Mtt 5.17), and this Law that was the sentence of death for us becomes the Law of Liberty – we do the dictates of the Law not out of obligation but out of desire born of thankfulness welling up in a transformed heart. The fear of judgment is replaced by passionate love for God that transforms behavior. In this session James explores further the connection between faith and works.

V 14 What is the fundamental question that James is asking us in this verse?

In a generic sense, what is faith?

What do you think is “saving faith”?

Gal 2.20

What do you see in this verse?

What is the relationship between Gal 2.20 and Js 1.21?

The evidence of saving faith is the evolution of the character of Christ within the believer over time. Every single truly saved person is moving in the same direction spiritually. Saving faith brings a gentle reprogramming of thought and action, a quiet revolution within heart and mind that points away from self and with true thankfulness points to Christ Jesus the Author and Finisher of saving faith.

V 15 – 16 What is James seeking to illustrate?

1 Jn 2.5-6

V 17 What does James conclude here and what again is his exhortation to us?

Mtt 7.15-20

Eph 2.10

Phil 2. 12-13