

Unrelenting Activism

James*

James is an intensely practical manual on the outworking of true faith in everyday life. It explores Christian conduct from several perspectives and shifts abruptly from topic to topic.

Faith perseveres under trials, resists temptations, responds to the Word, overcomes prejudice, produces good works, controls the tongue, manifests wisdom, submits to God rather than worldly pleasure, depends on God rather than wealth, and waits patiently for the return of the Lord.

Biblical faith moves from assent to actions, from words to works.³ For the believer in Jesus Christ, the letter of James is a clarion call to a life of unrelenting activism.

Tests of Faith (1:1-18)

Traits of Faith (1:19-5:6)

Triumph of Faith (5:7-20)

Self evaluation

This brings us to the end of our study of James. His emphasis has been spiritual maturity. This would be a good time for us to examine our own hearts to see how mature we really are.

Here are a few questions to assist you:

1. Am I becoming more and more patient in the testings of life?
2. Do I play with temptation or resist it from the start?
3. Do I find joy in obeying the Word of God, or do I merely study it and learn it?
4. Are there any prejudices that shackle me?
5. Am I able to control my tongue?
6. Am I a peacemaker rather than a troublemaker? Do people come to me for spiritual wisdom?
7. Am I a friend of God or a friend of the world?
8. Do I make plans without considering the will of God?
9. Am I selfish when it comes to money? Am I unfaithful in the paying of my bills?
10. Do I naturally depend on prayer when I find myself in some kind of trouble?
11. Am I the kind of person others seek for prayer support?
12. What is my attitude toward the wandering brother? Do I criticize and gossip, or do I seek to restore him in love?

Don't just grow old—grow up!⁴

* These notes are prayerfully provided to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's Word.

³ Bruce Wilkinson and Kenneth Boa. *Talk Thru the Bible* (Nashville: T. Nelson, 1983), 466-467.

⁴ Warren W. Wiersbe. *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 385.