

Jesus Strong
Week 7 - James
November 15th 2020

The Challenge... to live...

- ... in Fellowship with each other.
- ... spending time in Scripture each day.
- ... worshipping with your church each week

Part 1 - Two Faith Imposters

Written by James.

- James is the half-brother of Jesus.
- James struggled to believe his brother Jesus while Jesus was alive. (John 5:7)
- Jesus appeared to James after His resurrection.
- James was the leader of the church in Jerusalem and known throughout church history as a man of extreme prayer.
- He was one of the first martyrs for the Faith.

The Why Behind the Letter:

- James' hope was to address the 12 tribes of Israel that had converted from ancient Judaism to following Jesus.
- His letter helped followers to establish a real faith in following the way of Jesus.

Two Faith Imposters Marketed in Our Culture:

- 1) Faith that earns a way to being in God's good graces.
- 2) Faith without deeds.

Part 2 - Faith According to James

- It's possible to have an intellectual _____ in Jesus yet not have a _____ faith. (James 2:18-19)
- **Authentic Faith is always accompanied by an _____.** (James 2:21)
- **Living Faith is always accompanied by an _____ heart.** (James 2:24-25)

"We live in what one writer has called the "age of sensation." We think that if we don't feel something there can be no authenticity in doing it. But the wisdom of God says something different: that we can act ourselves into a new way of feeling much quicker than we can feel ourselves into a new way of acting. Worship is an act that develops feelings for God, not a feeling for God that is expressed in an act of worship. When we obey the command to praise God in worship, our deep, essential need to be in relationship with God is nurtured."

— Eugene H. Peterson, A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society

Reflection Questions:

- *Are you tempted to buy into one of the faith imposters?*
- *How can you move toward an authentic and living faith?*

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have **faith** but has no **deeds**? Can such faith **save** them?

James 2:14