

The Epistle of James

2:5-14-20

*Faith in God Should Result in Behavior
that is in Harmony with God's Will*

A.D. 45-48

Chapter 1

**Christian
Behavior
Regarding
Trials**

God's goal is
Personal
Maturity

God's
Method is
Acceptance
from God

Chapter 2

**Christian
Behavior
Regarding
Prejudice**

God's Goal is
for us to
Love Others

God's Method
is Faith
in God

Chapter 3

**Christian
Behavior
Regarding
Speech**

God's Goal is
the Blessing
of Others

God's Method
is to receive &
use Wisdom
from God

Chapter 4

**Christian
Behavior
Regarding
Conflicts**

God's Goal is
Peace with
Others

God's Method
is Submission
to God

Chapter 5

**Christian
Behavior
Regarding
Money**

God's Goal is
the Service of
Others

God's Method
is Patience
with & prayer
to God.

Many people argue that James is discussing true faith versus false faith. But it appears to be evident that James is not questioning whether the recipients were genuine believers; he repeatedly calls them “brethren,” “my brethren,” or “my beloved brethren” (2:1,14). Rather, these are people who were exercising faith. Therefore, what James is discussing is faith that is alone, meaning without works. He calls faith without works “dead,” indicating that it was faith that was once alive (2:17, 26). For James, works is a natural result of faith; people act upon what they truly believe. Have you ever needed to get your life in line with what you believe? With this letter, James is saying to believers: “**Align your life with what you believe!**” Selah.