

My Bible Study: The Epistle of James
Chapter 2

Chapter Title & Key Verse(s)	Person(s) in this passage	Significant Truth	Cross References	Chapter Summary	Application to Me	Promises to Claim
<p>Faith: It Prohibits Discrimination; Without Works, It Is Dead</p> <p>“If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ you do well; but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.” –James 2:8, 9</p> <p>“What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works is dead.” –James 2: 14-17</p> <p>“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” –James 2:26</p>	<p><i>Who is speaking; about whom; who is acting?</i></p> <p>James talks about how Jesus does not show partiality and that we should not dishonor the poor considering that God choose them to be rich in faith and heirs to the Kingdom which He promised to those who love Him.</p> <p>James uses Abraham and Rahab as examples of how faith goes hand-in-hand with works. He shows how Abraham’s faith leads to his works and through those works, his faith was made perfect. So also Rahab, whose faith in God resulted in her shielding the Israelite spies from Jericho’s army.</p>	<p><i>What does this passage teach me about the Lord Jesus Christ?</i></p> <p>Jesus does not discriminate and if we are His followers, then discrimination has no place in our lives.</p> <p>God’s mercy triumphs over judgment. However, we are judged by the law of liberty. And if we show no mercy, our own judgment will be without mercy.</p> <p>Faith without works is dead. We are justified by both works and faith together.</p>	<p>¹1 Corinthians 2:8, Leviticus 19:15 ⁵Exodus 20:6, Job 34:19 ⁶1 Corinthians 11:22 ⁷1 Peter 4:16, Acts 11:26 ⁸Leviticus 19:18 ⁹Leviticus 19:15, Deuteronomy 1:17 ¹⁰Galatians 3:10, Deuteronomy 27:26 ¹¹Exodus 20:13-14, Deuteronomy 5:17-18 ¹²James 1:25 ¹³Proverbs 21:13, Matthew 18:32-35, Luke 6:37, Matthew 5:7, Romans 12:8 ¹⁴Matthew 21:28-32, Matthew 7:21-23, 26 ¹⁵Matthew 25:35-36, Luke 3:11 ¹⁶1 John 3:17-18 ¹⁸Hebrews 6:10, 1 Thessalonians 1:3, Galatians 5:6, James 3:13 ²¹Genesis 22:9-10, 12, 16-18 ²²Hebrews 11:17, John 8:39, 1 John 2:5 ²³Genesis 15:6, Romans 4:3, Isaiah 41:8, 2 Chronicles 20:7 ²⁵Hebrews 11:31, Joshua 2</p>	<p>The beginning of this chapter reinforces: “you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” It strongly states that we as Christians should not show partiality or favoritism. Also, breaking of any part of God’s law constitutes breaking of the law as a whole. To disregard God’s will as revealed in the law is not merely to break an isolated rule; it is to rebel against God Himself. It also categorically states that faith without works is dead just like a body without spirit is dead. Faith without works is no better than words without deeds. Faith cannot be seen nor verified unless it shows itself in works.</p>	<p><i>Does this passage portray any sin for me to confess? Any command or instructions to obey/follow?</i></p> <p>As a follower of Christ, favoritism and discrimination of my fellowman cannot have any part in my life. I must treat all men equal. Also, in order to perfect my faith, my faith must produce works. A faith that does not prove itself through works is dead. I show my faith through my works. A saving faith is not simply a profession or an empty claim nor is it merely the acceptance of a creed. Saving faith is that which produces an obedient life.</p>	<p>My faith can be perfected through works. My works show the genuineness of what I profess.</p> <p>And I can have a genuine saving faith by obeying God.</p>