

Devotionals for James 2

Monday: Read James 2:1-13. Mark *brethren, faith*. Highlight the commands/instruction. Write the topic being discussed in the margin of your Bible and highlight it in the text.

Tuesday: Look up some definitions for the word *partiality/favoritism*. Write them down. Now look up the following: 2Chron.19:7, Deut.10:17, Malachi 2:9(Why is God judging His people?), Acts 10:34-5, Gal.2:6, Matt.22:16. What is God's stance on partiality/favoritism?

Wednesday: Look up 2 Cor. 13:5. The epistle of James is laying out the tests by which we may examine our own hearts(not someone else's!) to see if our faith is genuine. In James 1, the tests were how you handle trials, how you handle temptation, and how you react to the Word of God. In Ch.2, the test is how you react to people, particularly the poor and needy. Look up the following: 1John 3:16, 1John 4:10, Matt.22:16. What do you learn?

Thursday: Read James 2:5 and the first part of v.6. The word 'poor' in this context is in economics, social status—not spiritual poverty. If you despise the 'poor', what are you saying about the truth in v.5 that God CHOSE the poor? Look up Psalm 41:1, 68:10, 72:4,12; 113:7; Prov.21:13,28:27; Prov.31:9. What do you learn about God from these verses?

Friday: Read Matt.22:37-9. How does showing favoritism relate to this commandment to love? Read James 2:8. How does James refer to this commandment? This law was decreed by the King of kings, sovereign Lord of all. What does it mean to love your neighbor? God is not talking about emotions here. The time/effort/priority you spend on your needs is the same time/effort/priority that you are to spend on the needs of others. This is the test of genuine faith. If you need a reminder as to who your neighbor is, then read through Luke 10.

“Love is the active, working principle in all true faith. It is its very soul, without which it is dead. Faith works by love.” (Jonathan Edwards)