

James 2, Bible Devotions

☐ Monday - Loser Friendly.

James 2:5

“Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?” (James 2:5). “For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are, that no man should boast before God. But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, that, just as it is written, ‘Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.’” (1 Cor. 1:26-31). God delights in making something out of nothing, so that He may get the glory and not we ourselves.
Read Jeremiah 9:23-24

☐ Tuesday - The Royal Law.

James 2:8

“If, however, you are fulfilling the *royal law*, according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ you are doing well” (James 2:8). Christian, you are the King’s kid! It does not befit royalty to walk and live and talk in a common way. We are royal children who walk by a royal law!
Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

☐ Wednesday - Just One Sin.

James 2:10

“For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all” (James 2:10). Were it possible to sin but once in a lifetime, that one sin would shut us out of heaven. Now we see the vileness of sin to God: every single transgression is worthy of eternal damnation. Let us then “abhor what is evil; cling to what is good” (Rom. 12:9).
Read Psalm 97:10

☐ Thursday - Faith that Shudders.

James 2:19

“You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder” (James 2:19). Satan and his evil henchmen, the demons, believe in God, and the Bible, and the cross, and Jesus, and heaven, and hell – yes, they are more orthodox in their beliefs than many who sit in American churches Sunday after Sunday. But like so many in those churches, their faith is “useless” (James 2:20), even “dead” (James 2:17,26), as James calls it, because it produces no repentance, no turning back, no contrition, no fruit, no righteous effort. And what of you my dear friend? “Show me your faith by your works,” the Bible says (James 2:18). Read Matt. 5:16; Eph. 2:10; 1 Tim. 6:18

☐ Friday - Faith that Stands Alone.

James 2:23

“And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness, and he was called the friend of God” (James 2:23). What a beautiful but lonely statement. Abraham’s was a saving but solitary faith, marooned in a world of unbelief. So it is, to be a friend of God, the Christian must learn to stand alone.
Read James 4:4; Hebrews 11:6

☐ Saturday - The Cart & the Horse.

James 2:24

James wrote, “You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone” (James 2:24). But ten years later Paul would write, “For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law” (Rom. 3:28). And both refer to Abraham and site Genesis 15:6 as their proof text (cf. James 2:21-23; Rom. 4). “Aha,” the sceptic shrieks, “Your Bible contradicts itself!” Not at all -- these statements are two sides of the same coin. Man is not justified by faith *plus* works, but by faith *that* works. We are saved by grace through faith alone, yet faith that saves is never alone.
Read Eph. 2:8-10