

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MARSHALL HEIGHTS
4934 B STREET, SE WASHINGTON, DC 20019
Dr. Lehman D. Bates, Pastor

THE CHURCH AT STUDY
Wednesday, January 25, 2012
7 PM - 8:30 PM

THE EPISTLE OF JAMES
Chapter 2
“LIVING FAITH PROVED BY WORKS”

THESIS it is known that the faith existing within the Believer is tested by trials, temptations and “return-around”.

INTRODUCTION

The Faith of those who are True Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ must be a Living Faith. “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Heb. 11:1). Living Faith is alive with Life. Living Faith is functioning belief with the positive qualities of trust. Living Faith produces endurance in the face of and in the midst of disease, difficulty and distraction. Living Faith is Victorious over doubt, deception and defeat. Living Faith is the daily celebration of confidence grounded and rooted in The Omnipotent, Eternally Powerful God of Heaven and Earth.

In this Epistle, James writes to the 12 Tribes of Israel scattered abroad. The Jews are made up of 2 Tribes (Judah & Benjamin, and eventually the tribe of Simeon). The other 10 Tribes (Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Joseph, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Naphtali, Gad & Asher) were lost in captivity as a result of their wars. They were scattered in Assyria, Babylon, Egypt and other kingdoms into which their wars had driven them. Many Jews in the area of Jerusalem and others of Israel, who had accepted Christ as the Messiah, were suffering at the hands of their own religious heritage. What is so interesting is the Gentile Believers welcomed and received the Jewish Believers, while the Jewish Christians were rejected by their own unbelieving brethren.

Moreover, we learn here in Chap. 2, faith is dead and not alive if partiality is shown between people of wealth and people of poverty. Partiality is a sin in that it displays undue respect or disrespect for certain persons. It cancels genuine, Living Faith by violating equality within the Church Brotherhood. “For there is no respect of persons with God” (Rom. 2:11). “Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him” (2:5)?

I THE SIN OF PARTIALITY TO LIVING FAITH

- A. It Ignores The Inner Spiritual Worth (v. 5b)**
- B. It Breaks The Royal Spiritual Law
(v. 8; Lev. 19:18; John 13: John 13:34-35)**
- C. It is a cause of sin (v. 9-10)**

II LIVING FAITH IS PROVED BY WORKS

- A. Dead Faith Is Faith Alone (v. 17, 20)**
- B. Living Faith is Proved By Good Works (v. 15-16)**
- C. We have 2 examples of Living Faith, Faith with Works:
Abraham and Rehab:**

**“Unger’s Bible Handbook,” Merrill F, Unger, Moody Press, Chicago, IL
1967**

III

LIVING FAITH

- A. BELIEVES (What; When; Where)**
(Heb. 11:6; Acts 16:31; Ps. 95:7c-8a)

- B. ACTS (How; In Humility; Hopeful)**
(Mt. 7:24-27; 1 Pet. 5:6-9; 1 Pet. 1:13)

- C. PRACTICES IT'S CONVICTIONS**
(Exercise by Doing; Do Repeatedly for Habit
Forming; To Put Knowledge Into Practice)
(Mt. 7:12; Ps. 118; 24; Lk. 81:1; Titus 3:14;
1 Pet. 2:12)

General Reference: (Mt. 25:33-46)