

Hebrews: Faith (continued) and James: Faith and Works

New Testament * Week 34 * Opening and closing collect: St. James of Jerusalem, BCP 245

If you have questions from past weeks or your reading, email them to
TomRutherford@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

In Hebrews 11 – the “Faith Hall of Fame” – the author has listed Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham & Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, and Rahab. Now he jumps to Judges:

U. Vs 32-34 – Faith doesn’t require perfection:

1. Gideon
2. Barack
3. Samson
4. Jephthah
5. David
6. Samuel
7. The Prophets

V. Vs 35-38—Faith doesn’t guarantee ...

II. Vs 39-40—Faith is communal

James: Faith and Works

I. 3 Jameses: James the Greater (son of Zebedee, brother of John, one of Jesus’ three best friends), James the Less (Son of Alphaeus), and James of Jerusalem, who wrote this letter.

- A. Jesus’ ½ brother – Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3; Galatians 1:19.
- B. Roman Catholics say James was Jesus’ step-brother, but Matthew 1:25
- C. Patriarch/Bishop of Jerusalem – Acts 12:17; Acts 15:13-21.
- D. But James makes a big deal of neither – James 1:1.

II. James has detractors: Martin Luther

III. James is much like Proverbs

IV. Trials and suffering

A. James 1:2-8

1. James 1:1-3
2. Verse 4: God doesn't want us "happy"
3. Verse 5: If we need wisdom...
4. Verses 6-7: But if we ask...

B. James 5:7-11 – Wait patiently

V. Temptation, Sin, and Sickness

A. James 1:13-18

1. Vs 13 – God does NOT
2. Vs 14 – Temptation is ...
3. Vs 15 – Temptation by itself ...
4. Vs 16-17 – Sin comes from devil. Good comes from God!
5. Vs 18 –

B. James 4:7-10

1. Vs 7 – "Submit to God" –
2. Vs 8-10 – "Humble."

C. James 5:13-16 – Sin and sickness are related

1. Vs 13-15 – "Ministration to the Sick" (BCP 453.)
2. Vs 16 – "Reconciliation of a Penitent" (BCP 447). "All may; some should; none must."

VI. Faith and works – James 2:14-26

- A. Vs 14-17 – "Mere belief" alone
- B. Vs 18-19 – Even demons believe
- C. Vs 20-25 – Abraham and Rahab
- D. Vs 26 –

VII. The tongue – James 3 – Control it!

Preparation for next week: Read 2 Peter, Jude, and Acts 1-12