

# The Epistle of James: Living My Faith

- Living my faith in the midst of trials from without and temptations from within
- Living my faith in relation to the word of God – be doers and not hearers only
- Living my faith in relation to our fellow man – without partiality and evil thoughts; with love
- Living my faith by understanding that pleasing faith works obedience
- Living my faith in relation to the use of our tongues
- Living my faith in relation to the world and worldliness
- Living my faith in relation to my brethren
- Living my faith with God in my plans



# Living my faith in relation to my brethren

- “Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?”
- Evil speaking requires evil hearing by someone
- Speak evil = to speak against; “to speak out, calumniate (to make malicious false statements about another)” (Moulton); “evil report, slander (the utterance of defamatory statements injurious to the reputation or well-being of a person)”
- See 1 Peter 2:12; 3:16
- The idea of running down a brother; done in the absence of that person
  - Psalm 15:1-3
- Ought not to hear it either



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- Judge – unfair judgment of others; finding fault (Thayer)
- Can involve imputing unworthy motives to another; putting the worst possible interpretation on words and actions
- This is about Ill-natured criticism



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- Judging that is not forbidden (John 7:24; Matthew 7:15-20):
  - Recognizing sin in another to help them turn from their error, such as Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20
  - The church regarding disorderly members, such as 1 Corinthians 15:1-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:6
  - Identification of wrong-doers, such as Titus 3:10-11
  - Identification of false teachers – 1 John 4:1; 2 John 9-11
  - Decisive preaching that draws the line between truth and error – 2 Timothy 4:2
- Judging forbidden:
  - Hypocritical judgment, as in Matthew 7:1-5
  - Judgment from surmising, insufficient premises, ill-will



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- Speaking evil of and judging your brother has you doing this too:  
Speaking evil of the law and judging the law.
  - “This one does, by ignoring the precept of the law which bids us to love one another, and by acting in a fashion contrary to it. By refusing to do what the law commands – to love one’s neighbor as oneself – such a person passes judgment upon the law by declaring that it is not good nor worthy of being obeyed.” (Guy N. Wood Commentary, p.239)
- God has not put us in a position to judge the law but to simply be doers
- Only God, the lawgiver, is able to save the soul or cast it into hell



# Living my faith with God in my plans

- “Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit’; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.’ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”
- What’s the problem?
- Boastful planning without God in your plans
- In boastful planning, having identified the day, the city, the time to stay, the activity, and the gain to be had as if the whole matter is in their hands
- Leaving God out of our plans is boastful and arrogant. It is presumptuous confidence.




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- What’s not being acknowledged or is being forgotten by those addressed here?
- You don’t know what will happen tomorrow
- You’re not recognizing the brevity of life
- Dependence upon God needs to be a fundamental premise of our living
- Luke 12:16-21



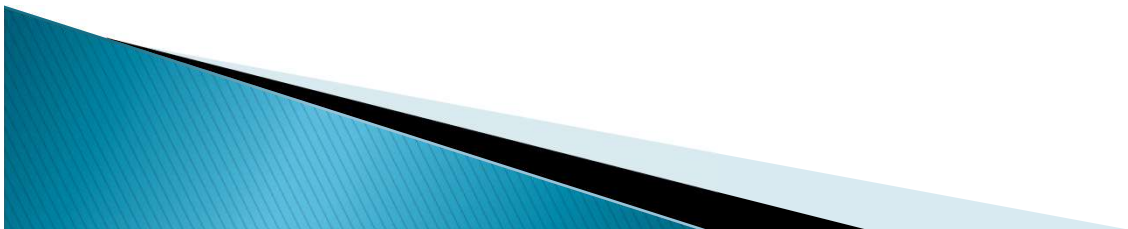
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  - Proverbs 27:1
  - Psalm 90:10
  - Ecclesiastes 9:11-12
  - “But now you boast in your arrogance” – “but now you glory in your vauntings”
  - “the etymology of the word translated ‘vauntings’ suggests a calculated effort on their part to claim sufficiency without God” (cf. 1 John 2:16)
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- “So for one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, for him it is sin.” (NASB)
- There are sins of commission and sins of omission.
- Very much like Chapter 1: Be not only hearers but doers also.
- Matthew 25:42-43
- Matthew 25:24-30



# Take-aways

- Let us try to rid ourselves of evil surmising and assigning of motives
- Let us be concerned with righteous judgment that is based on fruits
- Let us be sure to put God in the center of our plans and purposes
  - Young people...
  - Choices
- We often assume a lot – it won't happen to me; death is well in the distance
- Let us recognize there is much over which we have little control
- Make plans for and work for the one thing that is sure!
- Let us be careful not only to shun evil but to do good

