



METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRY
ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES
For the week of November 1 – 7, 2014
Lesson #6: **The Book of James, Lesson 6**

Structure of Chapter Two

Respect for Others	Verses 1-13
Faith Without Works is Dead	Verses 14-26

Our focus this week will again be on the subject of faith.

Section One: Great Faith

Upon what did the centurion depend for the healing of his servant?

“And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, 8:6 And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. 8:7 And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. 8:8 The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. 8:9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this [man], Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. 8:10 When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.” Matthew 8:5-10

Jesus commended this centurion for having great faith, because he had depended upon the Word alone.

Therefore, faith is expecting the Word of God to do what it says, and depending upon that Word to do what it says.

Hence, “the just shall live by faith,” because they are living by the Word of God. Romans 1:17

When we choose not to live by the Word we are no longer living by faith, and “whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” Romans 14:23

How powerful is God’s Word?

“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. 33:7 He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. 33:8 Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. 33:9 For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.” Psalm 33:6-9

How long after God spoke, did the thing appear? Before He spoke it was not. After He spoke “it was.” What caused it to be? The Word only! As soon did it appear? Immediately!



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“And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth [his] hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean. 1:42 And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed.” Mark 1:41, 42

There is life and power in God’s Word, as Jesus said, “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” John 6:63

How much faith must we have in God’s Word?

So long as we see ourselves as reasonably good and rest upon our own righteousness, there can be no faith.

We are to have faith in God alone, in His Word alone, and in His power alone.

How much faith did you need in yourself to be justified or forgiveness for your sins? None!

How much faith did you need to believe in His promise to forgive? One hundred percent!

FOR-GIVE-NESS

To forgive is to give for. As we give our sins to Christ, He gives us something for those sins. There is only one thing that God will give for sin and that is righteousness. Hence, when we are forgiven we become a new creature or new creation.

“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 3:6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: 3:7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:” Colossians 3:1-10

As we can see from the previous passage, we have to have a faith that works. We are not saved by our works, but by grace through faith. Consider these words of Paul:

“For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.” Galatians 5:6

We can see that a living “faith” is motivated by “love.” A faith motivated by love will work the works of righteousness. But also notice in this passage that “works” which are not motivated by love are nothing. And “uncircumcision,” or the lack of works is nothing.



Paul is clear that faith without works is dead. See James 2:14. Therefore, the absence of works shows the absence of faith. Paul speaks of some who profess to know God, but deny Him by their lack of works, saying, “They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.” Titus 1:16

Section Two: The Faith of Jesus

“Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:12

In these words we have a description of God’s last-day church. But we also have an appeal from God, saying, “I need a people who keep the commandments, and have the same faith as My dear Son.”

Never before in the history of our world have these two items been most needed. The world is waxing worse and worse. And the world needs a demonstration of the “faith of Jesus.”

If we had the faith of Jesus we would live like Jesus. So if we believe or practice anything that Jesus did not believe or practice, then we should be willing to give those things up.

Like Pilate, many have asked, “What is truth?” The answer is, Jesus “is the truth.” John 14:6

Jesus is the answer to what we must believe and how we must behave, for He is the “way, the truth, and the life.” John 14:6

Jesus said, “I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.” John 13:15

Now suppose you have some questions about Bible doctrines, where should you search first for an answer? You should look to the words of Jesus.

So many professed Christians based their faith on some church creed. The thought that we are to believe what Jesus believed is a new thought to many Christians.

Think of how much error has been taught by the churches for centuries. Some teach salvation by works. Many teach the erroneous doctrine of the immortality of the soul. The vast majority of Christians worship on a different day than Jesus did. There is so many things in the churches that are unlike Jesus. And it is not just in the area of doctrine, but also in behavior. So can we say the Christianity as a whole has the “faith of Jesus”? Obviously not!

The fourteenth chapter of Revelation presents a people who “follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth,” who “are without fault before the throne of God,” and who have the “Father’s name written in their foreheads.” See Revelation 14:1-5.



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They would certainly be included as they that “keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

Not only do they have faith in Jesus, but they have the faith taught by Jesus. They believe in Jesus, they have the same faith as Jesus, and teach the same faith that Jesus taught.

If all Christians had this kind of faith, then there would “be one fold, and one Shepherd.” John 10:16.

While God has His true and faithful in all the churches, the call will sound, “Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.” Revelation 18:4.

Millions will heed the call. They will “hear His voice,” and will follow Christ “whithersoever He goeth.” What unites God people in the end of time is the “faith of Jesus.”

As the Holy Spirit leads them, they will follow the example of Jesus and do what He did. They will believe what He taught. In this way, Jesus becomes their Alpha and Omega, and the beginning and end.

What did Jesus believe about the Word?

“The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. 10:34 Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? 10:35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;” John 10:34-36.

The word translated as “broken,” means to unloose or undo. In other words, the Word cannot be explained away, it cannot be made to mean nothing, or its binding claims cannot be diminished.

This same Jesus that believed that the Word cannot be broken, also had the Word in His heart and on His tongue. He was ever ready to say, “It is written.”

When Jesus was tempted of the devil in the wilderness, He would answer, “It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” Matthew 4:4.

Jesus believed in the Word and He used the Word.

A rich young ruler came to Jesus, saying, “Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “What is written in the law? How readeth thou?” See Luke 10:25-28.

At other times Jesus gently rebuked His hearers for not knowing the Word, saying, “Have you not reach what David did?...have ye not read in the law...Have ye not read in the book of Moses?...Have ye not read so much as this?” Matthew 12:3, 5; Mark 12:26; Luke 6:3.



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Now if the Jews had believed all that Moses was inspired to write—they would have accepted Jesus as the Messiah. See John 5:45-47.

The Word is an invitation to think as God thinks, for the Word is a reflection of His thoughts. Jesus is the Father's thoughts made visible, for the Word was made flesh. See John 1:14.

Light is Progressive

As we study the Word we will begin to think and feel as God does. For “truth is an advancing truth.” CWE 33.

As we receive new light it will lead us “onward and upward to purity and holiness.” 5T 534.

“It is our privilege to reach higher and still higher for clearer revealings of the character of God.” MH 464

“One interest will prevail, one subject will swallow up every other—Christ our Righteousness.” SD 259

How do I know if I have received the truth?

“The most convincing testimony that we can bear to others that we have the truth is the spirit which attends our advocacy of that truth. If it sanctifies the heart of the receiver, if it makes him gentle, kind, forbearing, true and Christlike, then he will give some evidence of the fact that he has the genuine truth. But if he acts as did the Jews when their opinions and ideas were crossed, then we certainly cannot receive such testimony, for it does not produce the fruits of righteousness.” 1888 Materials 2:632.

Metro New York Sabbath School Notes prepared by Pastor Jeff Wehr