

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## JAMES WANTS YOU TO KNOW

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**L**ife moves on, regardless of our knowledge or lack of it. Time doesn't stop just because we do not know something. If we are ignorant of certain facts, life can hit us hard. For example, ignorance of the ways germs are transmitted may cause us to go through life thinking we were meant to be chronically sick. A little knowledge in personal hygiene can change one's ignorant superstition into a more brighter look of one's existence on earth.

James helps us in the spiritual realm by informing us of some important facts that benefit us as we live life. He tells us what we should know as we move along engaged in life.

Living right before God will steer us into conflict with the world. Painful persecution is often the result. Blinded by the pain, we may not see any benefit of standing for the ways of the Lord, and living a strict life according to the righteous standard of the gospel. James writes, “*Count it all joy, my brethren when ye fall into manifold temptations; knowing that the proving of your faith worketh patience. And let patience*

*have its perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, lacking in nothing*” (James 1:2-3). In times of doubt, we must know that if we will go ahead and face the trials, keeping our faith, we will add steadfastness to our character. Knowing strength of character comes from facing difficult times with faith instead of running away from difficulties in fear is an important principle to learn in life.

In life we learn that it is easier to talk about what is right than actually do what is right. When we are being lulled into the lifestyle of many around us who are all talk and no action, James enters at a most appropriate time with this provocative thought: “*But wilt thou know o vain man, that faith apart from works is barren?*” (James 2:20). Faith does not save us, nor does it produce anything useful in life if we do not couple obedient works with it.

Along life's way, this world we live in and daily interact with can entice us into thinking in its materialistic ways. We may even begin to think we can play both sides, following after this world's goals as we continue to call ourselves Christians. James

brings us back to reality with this harsh reminder: “*Ye adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?*” (James 4:4). God and this world have always gone opposite directions. We must make up our mind. Do we want to be a friend with God, or walk with the world. We cannot be friends with both.

How many times have we seen once faithful brothers and sisters in Christ become unfaithful in their service as Christians. They no longer uphold the truth of the gospel or live accordingly to it. Without weekly contact with them, we may forget about them. With them out of site, we may forget of their true spiritual state. James offers this exhortation: “*Let him know, that he who converteth a sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death and shall cover a multitude of sins.*” (James 5:20). I need to rise up and convert my brother and sister from their error. They are dead, separated from God.

James wants us to *know* these facts as we live life.