

# 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...

(Jerry Fite)

Life moves on, regardless of your knowledge, or lack of it. Time does not stop just because we do not know something. If we are ignorant of certain facts, life can hit us hard. For example, being ignorant 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 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. He tells us what we should know as we engage 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, 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 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 do what is right. When we are being lulled into the lifestyle of many around us who often are all talk, and no constructive action, James enters at a most appropriate time with this provocative thought: “*But will you know o vain man, that faith apart from works is barren” (James 2:10)? Faith does not save us, nor does it produce anything useful in life if we do not couple trusting faith with works of obedience.*

Daily interaction with the world, and exposure to the thinking of the present age can entice us into thinking in materialistic ways. We may even begin to think we can play both sides, following 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)?*

Walking with God and embracing worldly thinking have always contradicted one another. We must make up our mind. Do we want to be a friend with God, or walk with the World? We need to know 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 of Christ, nor do they live accordingly to it. Without weekly contact with them, we may forget about them. With them out of sight, we may forget of their true spiritual state. James offers this eye-opening 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 arise and convert my brother and sister from their error. They are spiritually dead in their unfaithfulness and separated from the life in God.

James wants us to know important facts when prone to shrink in trials, forget the nature of saving faith, seek favor with the world and neglect our erring brother.