



CONVERSATIONS
ABOUT THE BOOK OF
James

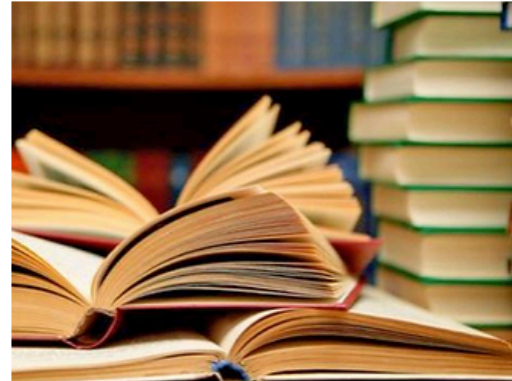
PUTTING FAITH TO WORK





How do we HEAR from God?

Read this [overview](#) of the HEAR method from *Growing Up: How to Be a Disciple Who Makes Disciples*.



Background

As we study books in the Bible, we should know more about them — their background, audience, penman, etc.

One source you can use is BibleRef.com, or you can watch this [overview video](#).

Additional information is available from the [BibleProject](#).



Additional Resources

[Here](#) is an example of a HEAR Journal Entry.

From Sunday morning teaching:

[James 1 — Audio](#)

[James 1 — Slides](#)

[James 2 — Audio](#)

[James 2 — Slides](#)

bethelsumter.com/hear

HEAR

Bible Study Method

Steps ...

1. Pray
2. Read ONE chapter and listen
3. Complete a HEAR journal entry

H Highlight

E Explain

A Apply

R Respond

1 My brothers and sisters, do not show favoritism as you hold on to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. 2 For if someone comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and a poor person dressed in filthy clothes also comes in, 3 if you look with favor on the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Sit here in a good place," and yet you say to the poor person, "Stand over there," or "Sit here on the floor by my footstool," 4 haven't you made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

James 2:1–26

CSB

5 Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Didn't God choose the poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? 6 Yet you have dishonored the poor. Don't the rich oppress you and drag you into court? 7 Don't they blaspheme the good name that was invoked over you?

James 2:1–26

CSB

8 Indeed, if you fulfill the royal law prescribed in the Scripture, **Love your neighbor as yourself**, you are doing well. 9 If, however, you show favoritism, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever keeps the entire law, and yet stumbles at one point, is guilty of breaking it all. 11 For he who said, **Do not commit adultery**, also said, **Do not murder**. So if you do not commit adultery, but you murder, you are a lawbreaker.

James 2:1–26

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12 Speak and act as those who are to be judged by the law of freedom. 13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has not shown mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Can such faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, stay warm, and be well fed," but you don't give them what the body needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way faith, if it does not have works, is dead by itself.

James 2:1–26

CSB

18 But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without works, and I will show you faith by my works. 19 You believe that God is one. Good! Even the demons believe—and they shudder.

James 2:1–26

CSB

20 Senseless person! Are you willing to learn that faith without works is useless? 21 Wasn't Abraham our father justified by works in offering Isaac his son on the altar? 22 You see that faith was active together with his works, and by works, faith was made complete, 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, **Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness**, and he was called God's friend.

James 2:1–26

CSB

24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. 25 In the same way, wasn't Rahab the prostitute also justified by works in receiving the messengers and sending them out by a different route? 26 For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

James 2:1–26

CSB

26 For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

James 2:26

CSB

For just as the body without
the spirit is **dead**, so also **faith**
without **works** is **dead**.

James 2:26

Dead = useless.

What can the dead do?

Faith = Hebrews 11:1

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

KJV 1900

Works = Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For by grace are ye saved
through faith; and that not of
yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: 9
Not of works, lest any man should
boast.

Ephesians 2:8–9

KJV 1900

Paul says: "Faith only."

James says: "Faith and works."

Who is right?

God's grace and your faith is what saves you. Once you are saved, now you can do good works. Your works cannot save you, but your works justify your faith.

Your works show that you have a
saving faith.

Many of the lost people believe that being a good person is what gets you to Heaven ... it doesn't!

Jesus did all the work, and he offers it as a free gift, we just have to receive it (Romans 6:23).

23 For the wages of sin is death,
but the gift of God is eternal life in
Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

CSB

**I owed the bill,
He wrote the
check!**

Dane C. Ortland, Daily Strength

Abba Father, thank you for the work you did for me. There is nothing I could have done to save myself. As I live out the rest of my days, keep providing me with opportunities to keep doing your work, the only work that should be getting done and the only work worth doing. Thank you for the free and precious gift of Your Son's sacrifice for me. I thank You and love You. In Jesus' precious and holy name I pray. Amen.

1 My brothers and sisters, do not show favoritism as you hold on to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ.

James 2:1

CSB

James 2:1

My brothers and sisters, do not show favoritism

④ as you hold on to the faith in our glorious

Lord Jesus Christ.

not in ourselves
or our works

Faith is challenging!

We are challenged to not show favoritism.

What is favoritism?

It is showing favor or partiality. Giving someone approving attention, focus.

It's when we have a bias (bent).

Listen, we want to be associated with those that are popular, who have power and prestige.

What does God look at?

It's not our outward appearance, but
what?

Our HEARTS! ... our mind ... our
thoughts.

The Lord does not see as man sees (1 Samuel 16:7).

7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or his stature because I have rejected him. Humans do not see what the Lord sees, for humans see what is visible, but the Lord sees the heart."

1 Samuel 16:7

CSB

We focus on the outward, but what
did Jesus tell us?

27 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of the bones of the dead and every kind of impurity. 28 In the same way, on the outside you seem righteous to people, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Matthew 23:27–28

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Get to know someone before you
judge a book by a cover.

We are so focused on outward
appearance and looks.

Lord, you saved me when I was a mess. Help me to remember that the person/people in front of me are loved by you. Help me to not be quick to judge someone because of what I can see on the outside. Help me see what you see.

5 Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Didn't God choose the poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?

James 2:5

CSB

James 2:5

Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Didn't God choose

① the poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs

of the Kingdom that he has promised to those

Who love him?

Who are we to say who God can
choose to use?

He chose the poor.

James is making us think.

What does it mean to be rich in this life?

Is it \$ in the bank, cars, boats,
houses?

Are those things bad? Does it mean that we cannot have or enjoy those things?

No, but they must not be our hope
and joy. We must not serve them.
They cannot become our God.

Money is spent faster than it is made.
Things break, rot, and can be
destroyed. But ...

31 but those who (wait) trust in the Lord will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not become weary, they will walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

CSB

Do I love the Lord?

Is He my all OR am I chasing
something else?

Love God with my whole being and
love others.

**37 He said to him, "Love the Lord
your God with all your heart, with
all your soul, and with all your
mind.**

Matthew 22:37

CSB

38 This is the greatest and most important command. 39 The second is like it: **Love your neighbor as yourself.** 40 All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands."

Matthew 22:38–40

CSB

I am chosen. ... I am rich in Christ. ...

I am an heir of the Kingdom. ...

I am loved and I am called to love.

