

James 2

King James Version (KJV)

2 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. (Be impartial, and teach all who want to know)

²For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; (One looks good and well polished, the other does not)

³And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: (To show partiality or favoritism) (God has no favorites. HE treats all people equally)

⁴Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? (To have favorites is to judge others. God is the judge, not us)

⁵Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? (They are church of Smyrna and Philadelphia, in Revelation. They followed the Word and learned who the Kenites are. They understand God's plan and how they play a part in it)

⁶But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? (To have worldly riches has no bearing on your heavenly riches. One has nothing to do with the other. Many poor people have great heavenly riches waiting for them. Many wealthy people today have no heavenly riches. They are wretches in God's eyes)

⁷Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called? (They blaspheme against Christians and use their worldly power to work against you and judge you)

⁸If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: (royal law = there is one King of kings. All people are equal under the King. Be fair and equal with people, regardless of their worldly status)

⁹ But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. (Respect of persons = is to have favorites; to judge people unequally)

¹⁰ For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

¹¹ For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. (Do not kill = Do not commit murder – this is a bad translation. Follow all the commandments that God gave us)

¹² So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. (The ten commandments, repentance and forgiveness)

¹³ For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment. (If show no mercy unto others, God will show no mercy upon us)

¹⁴ What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? (We bring our good works with us when we die)

¹⁵ If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

¹⁶ And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? (We are expected to help people, if we can) (More importantly, we are expected to help them spiritually, in the Word of God, because we can always do that)

¹⁷ Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

¹⁸ Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. (Our works establish and prove our faith. Our works reinforce and improve our faith)

¹⁹ Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. (Satan and his fallen angels also know that there is a God. They have the same faith that we do, The difference is that they work against God. We are to work with God and for God)

²⁰ But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?
(You can believe, but if you do not have any good works, your faith will amount to nothing. Good works begin with reading and learning the Word of God. Good works can be to be a good example of being a Christian to other people, and speaking up against sin, perversion and idolatry)

²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? (God is not asking us to do what Abraham did. HE is asking to make a difference in peoples' lives in a positive way) (The example here shows Abraham's great faith in God and that he was willing to do what God asked)

²² Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? (perfect= mature) see 2Thesalonians-3:10 (This verse applies to the physical and the spiritual context)

²³ And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. **Isaiah-41:8**

²⁴ Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

²⁵ Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?
(She was no harlot. She was a linen merchant. She had big stores of flax on her rooftop to make that linen. Jealous men called her a harlot because men came to her house to buy her fine linen. I'm surprised that even James called her a harlot in this verse)

(Rahab believed in God and helped the Israelites to take Jericho. She risked her life to do so. God made her a part of the lineage of Jesus as her reward because HE loved her for what she did)

²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. (Rahab had faith and did good works for God)