



VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

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STUDY 21: THE FAITH OF OUR LORD

James 2:1-4

James by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, cautioned believers from polluting the precious **faith of our Lord**, which was once delivered unto the saints. This bears much relevance to us as end time believers (Romans 15:4). In these last days, the church is getting worldly as worldly practices are increasingly being brought into the church. Although it may appear insignificant by human standard, the sin of '**respect of persons**' is weighty enough to exclude God's presence from the brethren (Genesis 2:17, 3:16-19; James. 2:10-12; I Kings.13: 17-22). No amount of religious activity will cover that seemingly insignificant sin. It is either sticking to it and losing heaven or forsaking it and gaining heaven. It is 'either', 'or' NOT 'both', 'and' We are hereby faced with the challenge to stand perfect and complete in the faith of our Lord. As friendship with the world produces enmity with God (James 4:4), so also does pleasing man (favouritism) disqualifies one from being a servant of Christ (Galatians 1:10).

THE WORD 'FAITH' IN SCRIPTURES

This message is centered on the phrase "... have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory with respect of persons" (James. 2:1). In the Bible, the word 'faith' is diversely used as:

(i) **Saving faith** Ephesians. 2:8-9; Romans 10:4-13; I John. 1:9; John 3:14-16.

This is not the natural faith, neither is it the devil's kind of faith (James. 2:19). The emphasis is on salvation from sin through faith. Look up to the cross and be saved. The cross provides God's Grace At Christ Expense (GRACE) so that everyone that repents and believes will be saved.

(ii) **Mountain-moving faith** Mark. 16:17-18; I Corinthians 12:8-11.

This is the faith to accomplish supernatural works according to the plan of God. It is the faith that demolishes obstacles on the pathway to progress and pave way where there is no way.

(iii) **Faith or Faithfulness or Fidelity** Galatians 5:22; Luke 3:9-14; John 15:1,8; Job 1:1,15-22 Daniel 1:8, 6:4-5, 3:16-18; II Corinthians 3:2; I Corinthians 5:6-7; Jeremiah 35:1-6; I Samuel 24:8. This faith or faithfulness or fidelity is common to those who have not backslidden, who swear to their own hurt and change not (Psalms 15:4), those who still maintain their Christian testimony in hunger, need, persecution, loneliness, problem. Those are believers who have not sold their birthright, like Naboth (I Kings 21) irrespective of the pressures or circumstances in life. It is the exact opposite of what Esau did (Hebrews 12:15-17)

(iv) **The faith** Ephesians 4:13-14; I Timothy 4:1; Colossians 1:23; Acts 16:4-5, 2:41-42; Jude 3; I Timothy 6:20-21; II Timothy 4:7. This is the faith referred to by James (2:1). It is the collection of the doctrines and the embodiment of the lifestyle of

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Christ. It is strict adherents to originality of the tenets of the spirit and letter of the scriptures. This type of faith is capable of:

1. producing saints in Sodom.
2. sticking to the old time religion in the midst of counterfeits.
3. declaring as Jesus did in Matthew 19:8 “... **from the beginning it was not so**” in the face of predominantly acceptable errors in practices.
4. warning believers not to pollute the body of truth given to the church with partiality. God, who instituted the doctrine of: Salvation from sin, Restitution, Sanctification, Baptism of the Holy Ghost, Marriage etc., is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34) and so must the Church.

The faith of our Lord takes its steer directly from God and His word rather than acceptable practices or wisdom of the world.

PERVERSION OF THE FAITH

James 2:1-7,9.

(i) Partiality James. 2:2-3. A typical example of how the 'respect of persons' perverts the faith is given in our text, that is, partiality. God is against partiality II Chronicles 19:7; Romans 2:11; Ephesians 6:9, Colossians 3:25; Proverbs 24:23, 28:21; Leviticus 19:15; Deuteronomy 1:17, 16:19. Partiality in favour of the rich (as against the poor), because of the riches of the former or status in the society, is mentioned in the passage. Partiality can also be influenced by Race, Tribal relationship, Academic achievement. Whichever the case may be, partiality must not be introduced into the Church. **Trace your partiality till you come to those hidden thoughts which accompany and support it, and you will find those to be evil and damnable.**

(ii) Carnal Judgement James. 2:4. Carnal judgement is common whenever 'respect of persons' operates. Typical examples are:

1. Marriage Judges 14:1-2; Deuteronomy 7:3-4.
2. Choice of Career Genesis 13:10-11.
3. Choice of friends II Chronicles 20:35-37.
4. In difficulty Acts 12:5,20.
5. In the Church I Corinthians 3:1-4.

In conclusion, we as believers must examine our daily lives to ensure that we are still upholding the faith of our Lord. We have to be extra-careful so as not to allow 'strange fires' of the respect for persons in any area of our lives. The sin is from within the heart and we need to go before the Lord for Him to do a deep work of circumcision in our hearts, so that our lives will conform, in all aspect with the Word of God.