

James 1 v 19 – 27 It's a Practical Business

Faith is actually a very practical thing.

We believe certain things and hold firmly to our convictions, but its not just an intellectual exercise or idle theory. It affects how we live, everything we do.

James was a half-brother of Jesus, a believer and one of the church leaders in Jerusalem, and if he had a middle name it would probably be 'practical'! He frequently insists that sound beliefs demand a matching lifestyle. As he says in 2 v 17: 'Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.'

So followers of Jesus will be humble in attitude, speaking less, listening more. Realistic about our own incomplete knowledge and many imperfections, we'll not be in a rush to condemn others. We will want to practise self-control with our passions and be charitable without partiality.

This is to be understood as part and parcel of a life trusting in Jesus as Saviour and Lord. As such we will be eager students of God's Word!

Such patient, prayerful faith in practice will result in blessing from God Who is both the Judge of our deeds and our loving Father, 'full of compassion and mercy' Who always 'gives grace to the humble.'