

James

Chapter 1

18-He choose to give us birth by the word of truth so that we would become a kind of firstfruits of His created things¹.

27 Pure and undefiled service before God and the Father is to care for the fatherless and the widows in their trouble and to keep himself unspotted from the world².

Chapter 2

14 What good is it my brothers if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you³?

¹ The word of God is spirit and life (John 6:63). It is living and powerful and through its incorruptible seed we have been begotten of God (Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23). When we were born of God we became a firstfruits or the dedicated portion of His creation. He bought us with a price and sealed us with the Spirit giving to us a down payment and certificate of purchase (1 Corinthians 6:20; 1 Peter 1:18; 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13). In so much that we are indeed the purchased possession of God (Ephesians 1:14). If you will take that which has been separated by God and vowed also vowed to Him and set it aside as a consecrated thing even as Hannah did with Samuel then God will bring forth great things from your life (1 Samuel 1:11). However, if you deal forcefully as did Hophni and Phinehas who demanded the consecrated things for themselves you only find wrath and indignation (2 Samuel 2:16). If you will realize how important and sacred the firstfruits are to God then you will understand that your life belongs completely to Him and you should be honored to be a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1; 1 Peter 2:5). You are holiness unto the Lord (Exodus 39:30; 1 Peter 1:16; 2 Peter 3:11; Zechariah 14:20-21; Matthew 3:11; Hebrews 12:14)

² James warns us against only being hearers of the word and not doers of the word. He describes those who are willing to participate in the meetings and will set and listen to the word but remain unmoved when it comes to obedience (James 1:23-25). These are those who say they believe but they never show their faith by their works (James 2:17-22). These folks continue to have an unbridled tongue and an unwillingness to be obedient to the commands of our Saviour Jesus and the purity of the Holy Spirit. Thus James cries out against those who have empty practices without the ethical and moral results.

A compassion for the poor and the needy and especially the fatherless and the widows is an expression of the will and the nature of God (Psalms 68:5; 146:9; Isaiah 1:17; Deuteronomy 10:16-19; 14:29; 24:17-22; Jeremiah 5:28; Ezekiel 22:7; Zechariah 7:10; Job 29:16; Acts 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 5:3-16). If a person has therefore been born of the word and has received the word of God into their nature then the fruits of the word must be allowed to be produced and thus testify of ones transformation (James 1:21; 1 Peter 1:23). Too many think God just wants us to recognize Him, God is not looking to be recognized He is looking for relationship. He wants men to engage in the beauty and right conduct of the life that He has created and given to us. God sets the example and He expects us to follow Him. Therefore, the Word of truth and the practice of it produces a right relationship with our Heavenly Father! We cannot have the love of God dwelling in us if we shut off a deep compassion towards the poor and the needy in the community of the church (1 John 3:17; Galatians 6:10). We must become more mindful of the needs of people around us and be willing to participate in helping them with their needs both physically and spiritually.

³ There have always been doctrines around that would deny the power of godliness. James is addressing one of them here in his Epistle. A doctrine that would claim that faith alone can save. The point that he

17 And so faith without works is dead being by itself⁴.

22 You see that faith worked with his works and by the works⁵ faith was completed.

makes is that there is no such thing as faith alone because faith always produces an action. The very nature of faith results in something being accomplished. Therefore, if there is no work, no evidence of obedience then faith is dead. There were those who only had a habitual empty boasting; who made faith some philosophical ideology that produced no change at all in their nature and behavior. These same doctrines and ideas exist today. Does the working of faith in anyway violate the reality that, "the righteous live by faith" (Romans 1:17; 3:11; Hebrews 10:38)? No, because to live has movement and actions and speaks to everything that we do inasmuch that we would say that "whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Romans 14:23). There are those who would attempt to argue this point by referring to what Paul said in Romans 3:28, "For we hold that a person is made righteous by faith apart from the works prescribed by the law." However, this has nothing whatsoever to do with the works that faith produces these are two separate issues. In the new covenant the works prescribed by the law are dead and meaningless. Yet at the same time the idea that somehow faith would replace the practical daily walk of godliness wherein righteousness and holy living are no longer requirements is the false doctrine that James is addressing. Paul himself addressed those who would attempt to pervert the doctrine of faith by eliminating the works of faith in Titus 2:14 and 3:8. Faith is a fruit producing not an empty dead boasting that is not accompanied by evidence. Faith without works is as useless and meaningless as sympathy without giving help (James 2:15-17; 1 John 3:17). Jesus made it very clear that if we were to enter into the Kingdom then we would have to do the will of the Father (Matthew 7:21). The evidence of dead faith is observed in those who have all the right scriptures and concepts but their walk does not measure up to their talk. Those who think that their words are equal to their works are deceived and will discover that their house is built on the sand and not on the rock Christ Jesus (Matthew 7:26).

⁴ How many people have dead faith? In other words - their faith just does not work? Each person must realize that faith is inseparably linked to the word of God. Faith has its starting point and its beginning in the word of God. It is established, and then grows into all the glory-producing power that is contained within it. The word of God describes the blessings that we are to have in our life; and it is faith that lays hold of those blessings. The word of God describes the actions that must be taken; and it is faith that moves forward in those actions. Without those actions or works, then faith is dead. If the word of God does not move us to do something, then we are only hearers of the word; as such Jesus said we are not right with God (Matthew 7:21,24; Matthew 7:26; Luke 6:47,49). The word of God, that is living and powerful, empowers us to do extraordinary things. Like Peter, we must be willing to step out and begin to walk in the realm of impossibility when we hear the word of God (Matthew 14:28).

We must be careful that we obey God, and do the first things first. How can a person who is not willing to find the power to obey God in their conduct ever expect that they will find the power to walk on water? If we are not going to be faithful in the basic things related to our relationship with Jesus, then how do we expect to be entrusted by Him to do greater things? We must recognize that Jesus Christ is in us, and that He is the fountainhead of all faith. Paul says for us to test ourselves, to see if we are in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5). The faith that flows from the Word of God, Christ Jesus, is going to produce the works of God - that are to be found only in the life of Christ Jesus.

The word of God says that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13; Ephesians 3:16; Colossians 1:11; 1 Peter 5:10). Yet many shrink back, and with the confession of their mouths say the opposite; because they failed at one thing or another. Yet were they reaching for it in God, or were they reaching for it in self-interest? If we will start by reaching for the strength to walk in obedience in conduct, then we will find the strength to lay hold of all of the blessings and promises of God. For example, if a person reaches to lay hold on the wealth that God has promised His saints, but refuses to reach for the ability to walk in love - faith will not work (Galatians 5:6). There is a fellowship with Christ Jesus that produces the confidence and assurance that we need to function in all the great things that God has called us to do (1 John 3:21; 1 John 5:14; Ephesians 3:12; Hebrews 10:22). We must understand then that living and active faith functions out of a realm of fellowship with Jesus: a fellowship that is demonstrated by obedience.

⁵ James reveals in his message about faith that it is the vital co-laborer with works. Using the same example that Paul did in Romans 4:2-4 he reveals how that although a man is saved by faith, faith is the vital force of the divine power of God that is active to accomplish the works of obedience. The works of faith are seen in Abraham when he offered up Isaac. In obedience to the command of God Abraham went to the place of

26- Just as the body is dead without the spirit even so faith without action is dead⁶.

Chapter 3

6- And the tongue⁷ is a fire a world of unrighteousness. So is the tongue among our members that it causes the whole body to be defiled and sets on fire the course of human existence and is set on fire of hell.

sacrifice without hesitation. When he arrived at the place that he was commanded he demonstrated faith in his confession telling his servants that he and Isaac would go and worship and return again unto them. When Isaac asked his father where the lamb was for a sacrifice once again the power of faith that raises the dead was expressed through Abraham when he said, "the Lord will provide himself a lamb" (Genesis 22:8; Hebrews 11:19). James makes it clear that faith always has with it an outworking, an accompanying partner called works. Faith always produces an action otherwise it is dead (James 2:17, 20,26). Faith is the vital force of the Spirit of God behind the deeds of obedience. Whereas Paul was addressing the uselessness of the works of the law James reveals the essential reality of the works of faith. The works of the law depend upon human ability but the works of faith come only by the Holy Spirit. When faith comes by hearing the word it produces an action by the Spirit that goes beyond the works of the law or the works of human ability (Romans 10:17). If there is not an accompanying action then the faith is not activated (Matthew 14:28-29). When the outworking of faith is accomplished by the action then at that moment faith is complete. Faith is the power of God given to everyman to do something. If the action of faith (that is dictated by the word of God) is not followed through on then the empowerment of faith is meaningless and the hearer is disobedient. In that faith always comes as a consequence of the word of God it is either utilized as the ability to fulfill God's will or it becomes ineffective through disobedience (Hebrews 4:2; James 2:17-26). The kind of faith therefore that makes one righteous is accompanied by obedience to the word of God. As the works of the flesh are done by unsaved people who walk in the things of the old nature and the works of the law done by those who trust in their own ability the works of faith are done by those who have received the life of God and walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:19; 3:21; Romans 8:9). There is a power active in everyone who has been born of the Spirit and that power is faith (Romans 10:8; 12:3-6). If we are willing to step out in obedience then nothing will be impossible for those who move in faith. Let faith be at work in your actions today!

⁶ Faith is the miracle working power of God that lives on the inside of us because Jesus lives on the inside of us. The word of God that produces faith was incarnated into flesh and the actions of faith was demonstrated for the whole world to see. That same Jesus now lives in us and from Him continues to flow the mighty deeds of faith and power (2 Corinthians 13:5; Colossians 1:27; John 17:23; 1 John 4:13).

James helps us to understand that there is a living faith and there is a dead faith. A living faith has action. A living faith participates in the things that the word of God describes. The word of God cannot help but to produce faith in those who will hear (Romans 10:8,17; Galatians 3:3; 1 Thessalonians 2:13). Those who will hear the word of faith will have a corresponding action. There will be a divine power and ability supplied by the Spirit of God to do those things that the word of God demands. However, if we are unwilling to come under the control and domination of the Holy Spirit then faith will have no action at all and the word will not be revealed in our lives. The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to reveal Jesus (John 16:14; 15:26; Galatians 1:16). Even as He was responsible for revealing the incarnate word with mighty signs and wonders He reveals the life of the word, Christ Jesus in us today (Acts 10:38; John 3:34; Luke 4:18; Acts 2:22; Matthew 12:28; Galatians 3:5). The Holy Spirit does this through the actions of faith. The actions of faith are the word made manifest in our lives.

Faith that does not produce an action is a corpse even as the body without the spirit is a corpse. A corpse is nothing more than a routing decaying body that is returning to its dust. The word of God that does not produce an action is the word that is not obeyed. When the word of God goes forth the Holy Spirit stands ready to produce the miracle of obedience in all those who will act (Romans 1:5; 16:26; 1 Peter 1:2). The gift of God has provided the measure of faith that is needed to do all that God has commanded. As soon as the word is heard faith comes but the faith that comes must be yielded to if the actions of the word are to be revealed. The Holy Spirit stands ready to supply all the faith that is needed to do all that God has commanded so that the life and nature of Jesus may be revealed in our lives today (Galatians 5:22; 2 Corinthians 4:13).

11- Does a spring bring forth from the same opening both sweet and bitter water⁸?

⁷ It seems that few people understand how terrible it is to speak ill of others. There are so many reasons used to give justification to why someone should be spoken of in a negative way; but it is always nothing less than evil. A large majority of saints have been defiled by their tongues, and having never realized the evil that they participated in, did not repent; and therefore they remain unclean until this day. Just as a fire destroys things, the tongue commits acts of murder and destruction - even when the supposed most "honest and caring news" has been told about another person - and even worse, when there is outright slander. But the person attempting to justify themselves will say, "I know they did this or that; I heard it with my own ears." Has it been proved in the court of justice? Has God weighed in, passed judgment, and condemned them? (Romans 8:33; 1 Corinthians 4:5). If not, you are guilty of high treason against the Almighty, who hates the one who sows discord among the brethren (Proverbs 6:19).

James describes the unredeemed tongue that is not submitted to God as a world of unrighteousness. He makes it the sum total of all unrighteousness; as though it were the root cause of everything wicked. This kind of description by itself should cause us to realize how important this issue is, so that not a single saint should ever give their tongue to speaking evil and their lips to speaking guile. All backbiting, slander, evil speaking, and whispering should be treated for what they really are: a destructive power of iniquity which consumes all who are touched by it in a flame that burns forever. Such words will never come from a person who is led by the Spirit and who is walking in righteousness. Rather, the ungodly concocts evil; and in his lips is a burning fire (Proverbs 16:27). When a person speaks such things, they are under the influence of hell (or of demon spirits), and it is these unclean spirits that defile both the speaker and those who listen (Hebrews 12:15).

Pastors and church leaders suffer more of this kind of evil abuse than any other single group within the church community. Yet few have taken to heart why judgment fell upon the brother and sister of Moses so quickly. As soon as Miriam spoke evil against her brother, the uncleanness of her lips (that defiled her whole body) was manifested as leprous disease which set in to rot her whole being (Numbers 12:1-10). There have been many whose lives would have been developed into something great, but a slanderous word or a suspicious concern devoured their minds, and their hearts became evil affected against the leadership that God brought into their life; and they were consumed. Many have taken the seat of judgment - and said that they disagreed, or questioned the leadership for this reason or that - and have burned up and consumed the confidence of another, preventing them from what God had desired. All of these things will be brought out on a day of judgment, and many will die in their iniquity. There is never a justifiable reason for speaking evil against another person. If something is wrong and must be settled, then it is to be done behind closed doors face to face with the offender (Matthew 5:23-24; Matthew 18:15).

This devilish and demonic thing began when Satan (who is the chief slanderer) prepared within his tongue the first accusation ever spoken. His accusation was against God. He went throughout the world that then was, accusing God of not being good enough or fair enough (Ezekiel 28:15-18; Revelation 12:9). Even as the accuser told Eve, "God knows that you will be like Him if you eat of the fruit of the tree." He had convinced her that it should be desired to make her wise, and it was God who would withhold such a treasure (Genesis 3:4-6). The name "devil" means slanderer or accuser; and as such he is Satan, which means adversary. He is the adversary of God and of His anointed. He is also the adversary of all mankind. If you have spoken evil against anyone, and especially of someone anointed of God - repent and make it right. Never allow the flames of hell to burn within your mouth again. Do not yield your members to unrighteousness and take up those demonic and adversarial words created from the mind of Satan to devour the souls of men. Your tongue was created by God to praise. It was given to you to bless and to curse not! Never again join with Satan in his attack against Christ Jesus and His saints.

⁸ James is dealing with the impossibility of anything producing something that is contrary to its nature. Even as Jesus made known that a good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit James points out that bitter water and sweet water cannot come out of the same fountain (Matthew 7:17). Understanding that these allegories relate to what a person says with their mouth. Now the mouth speaks according to whatever is in the heart (Luke 6:45). As the saints of God that have been baptized in the Holy Spirit there should be a well spring of life and blessings coming out of our inner most beings. The inspirations of the life and blessings of God should pour forth like rivers of living water from our heart and mouth. Our words should be like the river of Ezekiel 47 that brought life to everything it touched. Out of our hearts and mouths should come forth the word of faith (Romans 10:6). Our words should always be full of praise and thanksgiving because of this river of living water on the inside. When we were baptized in the Holy Ghost God filled our hearts with His

Chapter 4

6- But he gives more grace. For this reason he said, God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble⁹.

word and our mouth with His speech (Acts 2:4). He gave us the tongue of the learned so that we might speak His words of life (Isaiah 50:4). God set our tongues on fire with the Holy Ghost so that the utterances of God's life giving words would flow out of our mouth. Through the work of the Holy Spirit He made our lips righteous so that we might feed many (Proverbs 10:21; John 6:63). We need to consecrate our lips to speak only those things that pertain to life and blessings. There will be some practice involved especially if we have allowed envying and strife to operate in our lives and produce bitter water in our hearts. Because of God's mercy and grace all we have to do is ask God to forgive us and He will cleanse us from all unrighteousness. It is then necessary for us to learn to yield to the Holy Spirit in a greater way so that we do not repeat the same mistakes of the past. As we yield to the Holy Spirit He teaches us to sanctify Christ Jesus in our hearts (**1 Peter 3:15**). He instructs us and gives us revelation on how to keep our hearts with all diligence knowing that out of it comes the issues of life (**Proverbs 4:23**). Through yielding to the Holy Spirit the peace of God rules our hearts and we find ourselves being thankful (**Col 3:15**). God has given us a good treasure, which brings forth good things so that the excellent things of God's glory will flow out of our mouth (Matthew 12:35; 2 Corinthians 4:7). As we walk in the Spirit the words of our mouth will be as deep waters and the wellspring of wisdom in our hearts as a flowing brook (Proverbs 18:4). The things that we speak should be as a well of life and as a fountain of life (Proverbs 10:11; 18:4). Through the wisdom of God we come to realize that death and life are in the power of the tongue and we become very cautious about what we say (Proverbs 18:21; 12:18). God's word is like cleansing water that washes those who listen (John 15:3; Ephesians 5:26-27). If we will take hold of the importance and sacredness of what we say then we will be more mindful to speak as the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11). As we give ourselves to the life giving words of God we will find ourselves continually increasing in the anointing of the Holy Spirit. We will discover an ever-increasing flow of the blessings of the Spirit coming out of our hearts and mouths. As a result all of the blessings that we have been blessed with will be realized as our inherited blessings through Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Peter 3:9; Ephesians 1:3).

⁹ This is a very serious warning against all of those who choose to continue in pride and rebellion.

Although, such behavior should only be observed by those who are in the world, many of God's people allow themselves to be influenced by the world. The saints of God are given the divine nature, which has the spirit of humility; yet there is an evil one who goes about seeking whom he may devour. The spirit of disobedience that is at work in the world attacks the saints with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life. The pride of life is the most subtle of all Satan's attacks. The pride of life seeks the interest of self, and always has with it a perfectly justified reason for its arrogant behavior.

The most important thing to pay attention to is that pride is the opposite of humility; so therefore is easy to spot. The rebellion and arrogance of pride usually manifest themselves at the point of correction. Therefore, many who have come under this demonic influence have a story to tell about how they were hurt or mistreated by someone - and especially those who were over the household of faith, like a pastor. Those who walk under the influence of the pride of life refuse to be governed by the Spirit of God and His ministers. Humility must be in our life if we are going to receive correction and respond in obedience. Otherwise one of the many things that will result from a prideful heart is a root of bitterness - that will spring up and defile many. Just as Satan began to slander God because of the prideful heart that was conceived in him, even so those who are influenced by him begin to defile many with their slanders.

It is easy to walk with the Lord and follow the Holy Spirit: all we have to be willing to do is to walk humbly (Matthew 11:29; Psalm 34:18; Psalm 51:17; Psalm 138:6; Micah 6:8). If we will walk humbly with our God, there will be nothing but grace and mercy. Those who have been born of the Spirit must be willing to continually keep themselves clothed with humility, lest they fall into the snare of the devil (1 Peter 5:5-6). We must be careful that we do not wander off in self-will, and begin to despise the authorities that God has placed in our lives to teach us to walk in the ways of God. God's gift of sustaining grace can only be received by those who are willing to recognize their need, and humble themselves under the might correcting hand of God. Most of the time our need is revealed in humbling situations; therefore it will take humility to respond properly. Those who respond in humility to correction lay a foundation for greater humility, and the grace and honor that it brings (Proverbs 15:33; Proverbs 18:12; Proverbs 22:4). Those

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13- Come now you who say, “today and tomorrow we will go to such a town and spend a year and we will do business and make money.”

14- Yet you do not know what kind of tomorrow you will have for your life is a mist that appears for a little while and then it vanished¹⁰.

15- Instead you should say, If the Lord desires¹¹ and we live we will also do this or that.

16- But now you pride yourself in your arrogance all such boasting is evil!

Chapter 5

- 4- Behold the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you have kept back by fraud. The harvesters cry out, and their cries have come into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth¹².

who respond arrogantly only create for themselves a hard and impudent heart that leads to more trouble and rebellion (Psalm 18:27). If you oppose the government of God, you are opposing God!

¹⁰ There is an hourglass of time set upon each person’s life, no one knows when that hourglass will yield its last grain of sand. We boast of the great things that we will do but fail to realize that our lives are like a vapor that appear then quickly vanishes. The life of man is like the grass his glory like the flower no sooner does it spring up and suddenly it withers away and is no more (1 Peter 1:24; James 1:11). The length of our life compared to eternity is but a very small thing (Psalms 39:5-6). Yet we boast in the pride of our heart as though we will live forever, failing to realize that tomorrow may never come (Proverbs 27:1). Those who act like they will live forever and are in need of nothing will hear God say, You fool this day will your soul be required of you (Luke 12:20). Holy Spirit teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

¹¹ We have been given the blessed opportunity of knowing the will of God. If we want to be followers of Jesus and enjoy the relationship with the Father that Jesus modeled for us and supplied to us then we must live only to do the will of the Father (John 4:34; 6:38). All of our plans and desires should center around the will of the Father our complete resignation to His purposes should constantly yield a commitment that says, “if the Lord wills” (1 Corinthians 4:19; 16:7; Heb 6:3; Acts 18:21; Romans 1:10; 15:32; Philippians 2:19, 24). The only way any plans that we have are going to be blessed is if God is in it. We are to take no thought for our life but rather seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness in everything we do. If we will make the purposes of the kingdom our primary interest then all of the blessings that only the Father can give will be added to us. Walking in the will of the Father is not a life of limitation rather it is the opportunity to walk in the liberty of God’s rich blessings. If we acknowledge Him in all of our ways He will direct our paths (Proverbs 3:6). We must no longer live according to the desires of men but according to the will of the Father (1 Peter 4:2). The Holy Spirit desires to fill us with the knowledge of God’s will in all wisdom and spiritual knowledge (Colossians 1:9). If we will take the simple steps of obedience that are right before us the Holy Spirit will train us to know and to understand how to walk by faith and not by sight in every dimension of life. We have two choices we can live out our own life and in the pride of life do it our way or we can recognize the absolute authority of God and allow Him to lead us. It is far better to live in the heavenly, the spiritual- being lead and guided by the Holy Spirit rather than to be imprisoned in the earthly, devilish and the sensual (James 3:14-16).

¹² One of the names of God is Yahoah Sabaoth, which means the Lord of armies. The Hebrew word Sabaoth is derived from ‘saba’, which means to fight. God has an archenemy that He will pursue down and destroy; and that enemy is sin. Unfortunately, people think their sin is not all that bad. Many today even act as though it is a virtue if you do not in any way speak against someone’s iniquity. As soon as you begin to point out sin and say that it is wrong and command them to repent; then you are branded as a harsh, uncaring, and judgmental lunatic. However, this is an accusation against God. God in His love has reached beyond the ugliness of our sins, and commanded us to repent (Matthew 3:2; 4:17; Mark 1:15; 6:12; Luke 13:3,5; 16:30; 17:3,4; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 8:22; 17:30; 26:20; 1 Corinthians 7:8; Revelation 2:5,16,21,22;

17- Elijah was a man subject to the same kind of feelings we have and he prayed the prayer that it would not rain and it did not rain upon the earth for three years and six months¹³

3:3,19). The idea that somehow God is a push-over and will accept any kind of behavior from us is totally wrong. God is merciful, but he hates iniquity; and will destroy sin and all those who refuse to forsake it (2 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Peter 3:11; Isaiah 24:19; 34:4; Matthew 3:7; Luke 3:7; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; Romans 6:23).

When the title Yahoah Sabaoth is used, it refers to the fact that God is the God of judgment, and will destroy His enemies (1 Samuel 1:11; 4:4; 17:45; 2 Samuel 5:10; Joshua 5:14-15; 1 Kings 18:15; Isaiah 2:12; 3:15; 6:3; 8:13; 29:6; 51:15; Romans 9:29). All who do iniquity are the enemies of God (Romans 1:28-30; 5:10; 8:7; James 4:4; Colossians 1:21). Although He did not deal with us after our iniquity and destroy us, but rather sent a redeemer to free us from sin, there is still a certain judgment against all who will not repent (1 Corinthians 3:17; Ephesians 5:6; Galatians 6:7-8; 1 John 3:7-8; James 1:22; Matthew 7:23). When men walk in sin, they are alienated from God by their wicked works. God in His mercy will forgive us; but to act like God is on your side while you partake of those things that His anger burns hot against is insanity. Be certain of this: the Lord will come with ten thousands of His saints to execute judgment on all the ungodly for the ungodly deeds which they have committed (Jude 1:14-15). Make no mistake; the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9; 3:17; Galatians 5:21; Ephesians 5:5; Romans 1:18). All those who commit sexual immorality of any kind, lying, hating, and strife (to name a few), have already been judged and condemned to eternal death. Homosexuality is sin, and it can never be made to be anything other than iniquity. Premarital sex is an offense against God, and He hates it and will fight against it (1 Corinthians 3:17). Every kind of injustice is sin, as those mentioned here in this verse - who refused to pay for the work that they hired someone to do. Christians talking bad about each other and living in strife and division is sin. God hates it, and will oppose it wherever He finds it. God will destroy all sin and the power of death in Hell. He will have His way and His will; it will be done in earth as it is in heaven. There will be a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwells only righteousness; and the God of battle, Yahoah Sabaoth, invites you to come turn from your sin and join together with Him in His righteous cause. The Almighty, the Lord of Sabaoth, invites you to take up arms against sin and iniquity; and destroy it by submitting yourselves to God and resisting the devil (1 John 3:8; 2 Corinthians 6:7; 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:10; Romans 6:13).

¹³ James connects the working of miracles to a person's prayer life. Elijah was a man like everyone else, subject to fears and doubts; the only difference was he took hold of the power of God through prayer. Paul and Barnabas said something similar about themselves after the working of a miracle: when the people tried to make gods out of them Paul said, "We are men just like everyone else" (Acts 14:11,15). The power of God is not displayed because a man is someone special, but because of the power of faith functioning in that man. Peter and John declared to the people that it was not because they were devout and religious that miracles took place, but because of the name of Jesus and the faith that exists in His name (Acts 3:11-12,16).

The efficacy of a prayer life is revealed by the answer to those prayers that are prayed. God the Holy Ghost is dedicated to teaching us how to pray the prayer of faith. Prayer hones our senses to the operation of the Holy Spirit, who fills us with faith for those things that God has declared He will do if we will only believe. The Father has called us and ordained us to come into a place of prayer in which whatever we ask in the name of Jesus will take place (John 15:16; Mark 11:24). It is the prayer of faith that makes the difference. The prayer of faith is the prayer that the Holy Spirit breathes through our hearts and mouths. We can be certain that Elijah was concerned about the peril that his life was in when he was standing against Jezebel and the prophets of Baal. The difference was made in that he had a direct line of communication with God; and he had learned that through prayer, the faith of God was released through his life (1 Kings 17:1; 18:42-44). Let the Holy Spirit teach you how to pray the prayer of faith by the fiery fervent prayer of the Spirit that He desires to fill you with (James 5:16; Ephesians 6:18; Jude 1:20; 1 Corinthians 12:9; 14:15; Matthew 21:21).