

### Nursery - 0-2 years

*\*Available for Sunday and Wednesday Services.  
Located in the educational unit near the back entrance.*

### Children's Church & 3-5 year old Class

*\*11:00am service only, Children, 3yrs old -10yrs old  
You can take your children directly to the Jr. Church room at 10:50am.*

*Children's church is right off the fellowship hall, ages 6 - 10 meet here!*

*3-5 year olds will be at the end of the hall next to the nursery.*

*Leaders will not let your children leave the room after service so please go back and get them. Thank you!*

### Rest Rooms

*Located in the middle of the educational unit.*

### Welcome Center

*Located in the vestibule you will find information about our church and other activities. Pick up a "Welcome Packet" to learn more about our church. You can fill out the "Welcome Card" and place it in the "drop off bin" located at the Center. Thank you!*

**331 Silver Street, Greenfield, MA (413) 774-6438**  
**Pastor Joseph DiDonato**

### Sunday Service

**8:45am & 11:00am**

**Growth Groups for all ages, 10:00am**

### Wednesday

**Service & Bible Study, 6:30pm**

**Kids Club & Teen Gathering, 6:30pm**

### **What does it mean to be a Christian?**

*\*A Christian is a follower of Jesus Christ. Being a follower of Christ means that you have encountered the grace of God through the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

#### **How to become a Christian:**

*\*We can't do anything to become a Christian because we are helpless. However, Jesus came and died for our sins so that we can be forgiven and justified. Confess and repent and accept by faith what Christ has done for you.*

#### **Prayer of Faith**

*"Father, I know that my sins have separated me from you. I am truly sorry, please forgive me. I believe and accept by grace that Jesus Christ died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead and is alive. I confess Jesus to be my Savior and Lord of my life. Please allow the Holy Spirit to help me to do Your will. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

**"That if you confess with mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Rom. 10:9-10**

### **About Our Church**

*We are a Jesus church. A church that reads the Bible in a Jesus-centered way. We believe Christianity is about Jesus and not about being Baptist or Catholic. Faith Church is not about religion but about a place for people to come and wrestle, doubt, struggle in their faith by following Jesus Christ. We want to grow our faith in becoming more and more like Jesus (Romans 8:28-29). Our church is more than a building, an organization, a name, or a Sunday. We are a group of people, a family of believers, a population of diverse individuals united by a common relationship with Jesus Christ and who are "discovering faith together."*

**Visit us at [discoverfaithchurch.com](http://discoverfaithchurch.com)**

Check us out on:  



what REAL theology  
looks like



**FaithChurch**  
loving God by loving others

# JAMES

What REAL theology looks like

<sup>1</sup> James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings. <sup>2</sup> Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. <sup>9</sup> The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. <sup>10</sup> But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower. <sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business. <sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. <sup>13</sup> When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; <sup>14</sup> but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. <sup>16</sup> Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. <sup>17</sup> Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. **James 1:1-17**

<sup>27</sup> Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world. **James 1:27**

<sup>8</sup> If you really fulfill *the* royal law according to the Scripture, "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself,*" you do well; **James 2:8**

<sup>24</sup> You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. **James 2:24**

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. **Ephesians 2:8-10**

<sup>6</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love. **Galatians 5:6**

**"Like Jesus, James was more concerned about a faith transformed by love."**

**\*God is Sovereign, Almighty, Omnipotent**

<sup>3</sup> But our God *is* in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased. **Psalm 115:3 (KJV)**

## 1. A Biblical on

James 1:1-4

**Testing, Trials, Joy and Maturity.**

**Henry Nouwen wrote: "Your Life Is Not Going To Be Easy, And It Should Not Be Easy. It Ought To Be Hard. It Ought To Be Radical; It Ought To Be Restless; It Ought To Lead You Places You'd Rather Not Go.**

<sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. **Romans 5:3-5 (NIV)**

James 1:2

**Booker T. Washington wrote: "No Man should be pitied because every day of his life he faces a hard, stubborn trial.... It is the man who has no problems to solve, no hardship to face, who is to be pitied.... He has nothing in his life which will strengthen and form his character, nothing to call out his latent powers and deepen and widen his hold on life and love."**

James 1:4

**\*\*Trials change us: for better. They make us mature or make us mad!**

James 1:5

<sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **Philippians 4:6 (NIV)**

## 2. A Biblical Perspective on

<sup>12</sup> There is a blessing on the man who undergoes testing; because, if he has God's approval, he will be given the crown of life, which the Lord has said he will give to those who have love for him. <sup>13</sup> Let no man say when he is tested, I am tested by God; for it is not possible for God to be tested by evil, and he himself puts no man to such a test: <sup>14</sup> But every man is tested when he is turned out of the right way by the attraction of his desire. <sup>15</sup> Then when its time comes, desire gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is of full growth, gives birth to death. <sup>16</sup> Do not be turned from the right way, dear brothers. <sup>17</sup> Every good and true thing is given to us from heaven, coming from the Father of lights, with whom there is no change or any shade made by turning. **James 1:12-17 (BBE)**

<sup>28</sup> And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. **Romans 8:28 (NLT)**

<sup>20</sup> I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. **Galatians 2:20 (KJV)**

### Recommended Sources for James:

**James a Social Justice Commentary**  
By Jim Reiher

**Commentary on James**  
by Scot McKnight

**James for Everyone**  
by NT Wright

**A Theology of James**  
by Christopher Morgan

**James Augsburg NT Commentary**

**James Anchor Bible Commentary Series**



**Faith Church Announcements!**

**Growth Groups TODAY @ 10am!**

**Ushers & Greeters Ministry - For all the men, women and teens who signed up, the meeting is September 23<sup>rd</sup> after second service 12:15pm in sanctuary.**

**Men's Small Group starts September 13<sup>th</sup> @7:00pm.**

**Men's Breakfast September 22<sup>nd</sup> , @ 8:00am!! See Welcome counter to sign up!**

**Looking for ways to serve? See the Welcome Counter for ministries that need your help.**

**Community Meal Our next one is in Orange, This Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> .**

**Food Pantry/Clothing Closet donations are needed and Welcomed! Please use the yellow envelopes for monetary donations.**

**See insert for all kinds of exciting events coming up from new adult growth groups, an upcoming concert, to our fall events  
Such as our 6<sup>th</sup> annual Trunk or Treat!**