

James 2

Chapter 2 of 5 · 26 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Warning Against Favoritism

¹ My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

² For 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;

³ And 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:

⁴ Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

⁵ Hearken, 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?

⁶ But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

⁷ Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

⁸ If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

⁹ But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

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.

12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

13 For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

Faith Without Works Is Dead

14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

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?

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.

19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

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.

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?

²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Altar — θυσιαστήριον (Thusiastērion)

Altar

The Greek **thusiastērion** (θυσιαστήριον) denotes an altar for sacrifice. Hebrews 13:10 declares 'We have an altar' from which temple priests cannot eat—referring to Christ's sacrifice outside the camp.

Believe — πιστεύω (Pisteuo)

To believe, trust, have faith

The Greek **pisteuo** (πιστεύω) means to believe or trust—active reliance upon Christ. 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish' (John 3:16).

Faith — πίστις (Pistis)

Faith, belief, trust

The Greek **pistis** (πίστις) denotes faith, belief, or trust—confidence in God's character and promises. It's both intellectual assent and relational trust, central to justification (Romans 5:1).

God — Θεός (Theos)

God

The Greek **Theos** (Θεός) refers to deity, used both for the one true God and false gods. Context determines whether it denotes the Father specifically or the Godhead generally.

Judgment — κρίσις (Krisis)

Judgment, decision

The Greek **krisis** (κρίσις) denotes judgment—evaluation and sentence. All will stand before God's judgment seat (Romans 14:10), and Christ has been appointed Judge of the living and dead (Acts 10:42).

Kingdom — βασιλεία (Basileia)

Kingdom, reign

The Greek **basileia** (βασιλεία) means kingdom—both the realm ruled and the exercise of royal authority. The 'kingdom of God' is central to Jesus' teaching, representing God's saving rule breaking into history.

Law — νόμος (Nomos)

Law

The Greek **nomos** (νόμος) denotes law—particularly the Mosaic law. While believers are not under law but under grace (Romans 6:14), Christ fulfilled the law (Matthew 5:17) and wrote it on believers' hearts (Hebrews 8:10).

Lord — Κύριος (Kurios)

Lord, Master

The Greek **Kurios** (Κύριος) means 'lord' or 'master,' used both for human masters and divinely for God the Father and Jesus Christ. Its application to Jesus affirms His deity, as it translates YHWH in the Septuagint.

Love — ἀγάπη (Agape)

Divine love

The Greek **agape** (ἀγάπη) denotes self-sacrificial, unconditional love—the highest form of love, characterizing God's nature (1 John 4:8) and the love Christians are called to demonstrate.

Mercy — ἔλεος (Eleos)

Mercy, compassion

The Greek **eleos** (ἔλεος) denotes compassionate mercy—pity for those in distress. God is 'rich in mercy' (Ephesians 2:4), withholding deserved punishment and granting undeserved kindness.

Righteous — δίκαιος (Dikaios)

Righteous, just

The Greek **dikaios** (δίκαιος) means righteous or just—conforming to God's standard. Christ's righteousness is imputed to believers through faith (Romans 4:5), making them legally righteous before God.

Save — σώζω (Sozo)

To save, deliver, heal

The Greek **sozo** (σώζω) means to save—deliverance from sin, death, and judgment. 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved' (Acts 16:31). The word also encompasses physical healing and spiritual wholeness.

Sin — ἁμαρτία (Hamartia)

Sin, missing the mark

The Greek **hamartia** (ἁμαρτία) means sin—missing the target of God's perfection. 'All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23), requiring Christ's atoning sacrifice.

Spirit — πνεῦμα (Pneuma)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Greek **pneuma** (πνεῦμα) means spirit, wind, or breath—the immaterial aspect of persons. The Holy Spirit (Pneuma Hagion) is the third person of the Trinity, dwelling in believers.

CROSS REFERENCES

James 2:1 **Parallel theme:** James 2:3; 2:9; 3:17; Leviticus 19:15; Deuteronomy 1:17; 16:19; Proverbs 24:23; 28:21; Matthew 22:16. **References Lord:** 2 Chronicles 19:7

James 2:2 **Parallel theme:** Esther 3:10; 8:2; Luke 15:22

James 2:3 **Parallel theme:** James 2:6; Isaiah 65:5; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Jude 1:16

James 2:4 **Judgment:** James 4:11; Psalms 58:1; 82:2; John 7:24. **Parallel theme:** Job 34:19; Malachi 2:9

James 2:5 **Kingdom:** Matthew 5:3; Luke 6:20; 12:32. **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 8:9; Hebrews 11:26; 1 Peter 1:4; Revelation 2:9. **References God:** Luke 12:21. **Love:** James 1:12; 1 Corinthians 2:9

James 2:6 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 10:14; 12:5; 14:6; Proverbs 14:31; 17:5; 22:16; Acts 8:3; 13:50; 17:6; 1 Corinthians 11:22

James 2:7 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 111:9; Matthew 1:23; Acts 11:26; 1 Timothy 1:13

James 2:8 **Love:** Leviticus 19:18; 19:34; Matthew 22:39; Galatians 5:14. **Word:** James 1:25; 2:12; Galatians 6:2. **Parallel theme:** 2 Kings 7:9; Jonah 4:4; 1 Peter 2:9

James 2:9 **Parallel theme:** Leviticus 19:15; John 8:9

James 2:10 **Word:** Deuteronomy 27:26; Galatians 3:10

James 2:11 **Word:** Romans 13:9

James 2:12 **Word:** James 1:25; 2:8; Colossians 3:17. **Parallel theme:** Philippians 4:8

James 2:13 **Grace:** Psalms 18:25; 85:10; Micah 7:18; Matthew 5:7. **Parallel theme:** Genesis 42:21; Proverbs 21:13; Ezekiel 33:11; Matthew 6:15. **Judgment:** Jeremiah 9:24; Luke 6:37

James 2:14 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 5:20; Luke 6:49; Acts 8:21; Titus 1:16; Hebrews 13:9. **Faith:** James 2:18; 2:26; Galatians 5:6; Hebrews 11:17; 2 Peter 1:5

James 2:15 **Parallel theme:** James 2:5; Isaiah 58:7; 58:10; Luke 3:11

James 2:16 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 15:32; Romans 12:9; 2 Corinthians 8:8

James 2:17 **Faith:** James 2:14; 2:26; 1 Corinthians 13:13; 1 Thessalonians 1:3; 1 Timothy 1:5

James 2:18 **Faith:** James 2:14; Romans 3:28; 14:23; Galatians 5:6; 1 Timothy 1:5; Hebrews 11:6; 11:31; 11:33. **Parallel theme:** James 3:13; Titus 2:7

James 2:19 **References God:** Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 44:8; 46:9; Matthew 8:29; Mark 1:24; 5:7; Luke 4:34; Acts 16:17; Galatians 3:20. **Parallel theme:** Zechariah 14:9

James 2:20 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 12:11; Romans 1:21. **Faith:** James 2:17; 2:26

James 2:21 **References Abraham:** John 8:39. **Righteousness:** Matthew 12:37

James 2:22 **Faith:** Galatians 5:6; 1 Thessalonians 1:3. **Parallel theme:** 1 John 2:5

James 2:23 **Faith:** Genesis 15:6; Galatians 3:6. **References Abraham:** Isaiah 41:8. **References God:** 2 Chronicles 20:7. **Parallel theme:** Exodus 33:11. **Word:** Romans 11:2

James 2:25 **Parallel theme:** Joshua 2:1; 2:4; 2:15; 6:17; Matthew 1:5; 21:31; Hebrews 11:31

James 2:26 **Faith:** James 2:14; 2:17; 2:20. **Spirit:** Ecclesiastes 12:7. **Parallel theme:** Psalms 104:29

From **KJV Study** · kjevstudy.org

The Authorized King James Version · Public Domain