

# PENINSULA CHRISTIAN F E L L O W S H I P

## *The Heart, Hands & Feet of Faith* (Foundations of Faith, pt.4)

**James 1:2-4**, My **brethren** (family of the original womb), count it all joy when you fall into various **trials**, knowing that **the testing of your faith** produces perseverance. But let perseverance have its perfect work, that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

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James's first reference to faith is not about miraculous outcomes

- **Trials that test our faith** = "Proving through adversity"
- Perseverance/endurance indicates **over time**
- Great faith is **faith enough to wait**
- Weak faith demands an answer right now

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As we saw in "First Faith" in **Luke 17:5-10**...

- **Growing faith** occurs as we persist in our **work of service**
- As with all seed growth (**Matthew 13:3-9 & 16-23**)...
- It has to do with **the soil of our lives** that nurtures it

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**1:5-6**, If any of you lacks wisdom, let him **ask of God**, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But **let him ask in faith**, with no doubting

- Wisdom originates & resides **IN God**...
- It is obtained **from Him** by faith (**Ephesians 2:8**)
- Faith **asks God** for **His promises** (not our wishes) in confidence

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**1:6-8**, for he who **doubts** (God will give what He promised) is a double-minded man, **unstable in all his ways**.

- Wanting from God **without faith** is **instability and unwise**...
- "**In all his ways**" - across the spectrum of life
- Knowledge knows what's going on in life
- The wisdom of faith knows **how to live confidently**

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How might Jesus respond to any situation in faith...

- And **how should I/we?** (**John 5:19 & 20:21**)
- Faith reveals the way; **step by step** & day by day
- If we're **not** actively relying on God – **Why not?**

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**1:12**, A man who **endures** trials is blessed, because **when he passes the test** he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.

- It appears to be **a lifelong process**

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**1:22**, But be **doers** of the word, and **not** hearers only, **deceiving yourselves**. (**Luke 6:46**)

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**2:14-17**, What does it profit, my brethren, if someone **says he has faith** but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and

filled," but you **do not give them the things which are needed** for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, **if it does not have works**, is dead (lifeless).

- **Matthew 7:26-27**

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**2:18**, But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith **without** your works, and I will **show** you **my faith by my works**.

- Daily **seed faith grows** & produces evidence
- **Matthew 13:23**, In the good soil of our hearts
- **Luke 13:18-19 & 17:5-10** (Mustard seed)

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I know people with hearts **full of compassion** who long for **miracles of faith**:

- Healing, recovery, rescue, provision & more
- Are they continuing in first faith with **food, clothing & assistance** when it is needed?
- **Matthew 25:44-45**

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**2:1-4**, My brethren, **do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ**, the Lord of glory, **with partiality**. For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become **judges with evil thoughts?**

- Faith knows **no favoritism**

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**My uncle Art...** my Aunt's checkbook

- Hugely successful in business, **a giant oak tree**
- He knew he was **still a seed**, not yet a tree in the church

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**2:21-22**, Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he **offered** Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and **by works faith was made complete?**

- More than **40 years after he received the seed of faith** in his heart...
- **It grew into the completeness** of offering the most valuable thing in his life
- The God given **foundation** of God's promise to him

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**First** – Do we believe God **with our life?**

- Not only with our mind
- **Living to serve Him**

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**Next** – Are we actively **looking & listening** in faith for His further direction?

- Committed to obeying Him, **before** He reveals anything else
- Living to hear Him say, "**Well done, good & faithful servant**"

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**Lastly** – Serving all people equally, **without favoritism**

- In a world of judgement & condemnation
- Being the offer of **His Peace** in faith, to everyone we encounter
- **John 14:27 & 20:21**