

Living Faith ~ Pastor Alex Perednia ~ September 10, 2017

**#1 FAITHBOOK ~ A Mature Faith?** (James 1:1-11)

Examining what the book of James (*Faithbook*) teaches us about what faith is and how to strengthen it.

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What is your **Faithbook** status? How would you complete this statement?

“MY FAITH IS...\_\_\_\_\_.”

**I. The Development of our Faith**

- A. God has a process to develop the **MATURITY** of our life and faith! (James 1:3b-4)  
Trials → Testing → Perseverance → Mature
- B. When we understand how God can use process this to help us mature, we can have **JOY** even in our trials. (James 1:3a)

**II. The Dimensions (3-D) of our Faith**

- A. Our faith involves our **HEAD**, an *intellectual assent* to God and His promises to us in the Bible and the Gospel. (James 1:5-8; see also James 1:18 & 2:19)
- B. Our faith involves our **HEART**, an *earnest acceptance* of God and His promises to us in the Bible and the Gospel. (James 1:21; 4:7)
- C. Our faith involves our **HANDS** and feet, an *active obedience* to God and His promises to us in the Bible and the Gospel. (James 1:22; 2:18b; 2:26)

**BIG IDEA:** *God is committed to developing a mature 3-dimensional faith in us!*



**CONNECTION GROUPS** at Living Faith  
Sermon-based Groups  
Wednesday, Sept. 13 @ 2PM and 7PM

1. Would anyone like to share your “Faithbook” status update? How did you complete, “My faith is... \_\_\_\_\_.” What emoji best describes your faith status at the moment?
2. Watch the RightNow Media: Francis Chan, *The Book of James*, Session 1: <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/159923#1>
3. According to verse 1, who was the author of this letter? Who was James? How does he describe himself? Why do you think James didn’t introduce himself as the brother of Jesus? According to verse 1, who are the recipients of this letter? What does that mean? Why does James say it that way?
4. According to Alex, what is the “formula” God uses in the development of our faith as outlined in vv. 2-4? What does each of these terms mean? Can you describe a time when you experienced any one of these?
  - a. Do you remember what Francis Chan said about the word “testing” in the video? What word pictures did he paint for us?
  - b. Do you think people expect God to make them happy? Is that a wrong idea? If you made this the “goal of your life,” to grow in holiness even if it meant suffering, how would that change your life? What decisions would you make differently? How would you have to adjust your priorities? Is that a realistic idea?
  - c. What does a “mature believer who reflects the image of Christ” look like? How does our church aim to help you to make progress toward that goal?
5. According to Alex, what are the 3-Dimensions of faith that the Bible and the book of James describes? When people ask, “do you have faith?” which one are they usually thinking most of and the one our church typically emphasizes the most? Alex used the illustration of a 3-cylinder engine to describe a well-running “engine” of faith. Describe the dysfunctions of faith that will result if one of these cylinders is misfiring in a person’s life?

MEMORY VERSE: James 1:3