

Living Faith ~ Pastor Alex Perednia ~ November 12, 2017

#8 FAITHBOOK ~ A Humble Faith? (James 3:13-4:12)

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

It's called the "Envy Effect." One of the realities of social media is that -- if we are not careful -- it can lead to more dissatisfaction with our life! If there is lot of dissatisfaction in your life, perhaps your faith is defective. *Are you ready to TEST your faith?* James repeatedly teaches that our faith must be shown in our deeds. (2:18b)

"...let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the **HUMILITY** that comes from wisdom." (3:13)

BIG IDEA: As you look *within, around and up*, do you see your deeds expressing a humble faith?

❶ LOOK **W**ITHIN and ask, "Does my life show a *humble* assessment of myself?"

A When you look *within*, do you find **BAD** fruit? (3:14-16)

B When you look *within*, do you find **GOOD** fruit? (3:17-18)

❷ LOOK **A**ROUND and ask, "Does my life show evidence of *humility* in my relationships? (4:1-3, 11-12)

A When you look *around*, are your relationships marked by **CONFLICT**? (4:1-3)

B When you look *around*, are your relationships marked by a **CRITICAL** spirit? (4:11-12)

❸ LOOK **U**P and ask, "Do I live a life of faith in God with *humble* submission? (4:4-10)

A As you look *up*, do your **VALUES** reflect an allegiance more to *the world* than to *God*? (4:4-6)

A As you look *up*, do you see the attitudes and **ACTIONS** that will move you toward a more humble faith? (4:7-10)



CONNECTION GROUPS at Living Faith
Sermon-based Group
Wednesday, Nov. 15 @ 2PM and 7PM

- ❶ For all the good that social media can bring into our life, numerous studies point to a connection between frequent use of Facebook and dissatisfaction (and even depression) in our life. Why do you think this might be the case? What practical steps can we take to reap the benefits while avoiding the pitfalls of using social media? (The studies show that many people struggle with envy and social comparisons.)
- ❷ Read James 3:1-13-18 and watch this week’s teaching video from Francis Chan on it: <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/159923#8> Why is Alcatraz a perfect setting for this week’s topic? What is *the* cause of the crime all around us?
- ❸ James 3:13 starts off with a question, so let’s answer it. Who is the wisest person you know, or have known? Why do you say that? How did they show their wisdom? Why is humility the greatest part of wisdom? How do you know if you “have” humility? (see sermon outline, We have to look WITHIN, AROUND and UP to see if our lives really demonstrate a humble faith.)
- ❹ Read James 4:1-12 and watch an additional teaching video from Francis Chan on it: <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/159923#9> According to verse 1, where do fights and quarrels come from? How do you feel about the word “murder” in verse 2? Does that surprise you? Do you think it belongs there? Were these people really killers? In verses 2–4 there are three words that are also found in the Ten Commandments. Can you find them? Do you think this is intentional? Why would James want to tell his readers how they were breaking the Ten Commandments?*
- ❺ What is the wrong way to pray according to 4:3? Does this mean we shouldn’t pray until we the right way? How do we overcome this selfish streak in our prayers?
- ❻ Is verse 4 saying that we shouldn’t be friends with non-Christians? What is it saying?
- ❼ What are the 10 action steps we can take to experience a more humble faith (according to James 4:7-10)? Why should we “aim low” (humble ourselves) if we want to reach new heights (be lifted up)?

*From Francis Chan Study Guide

MEMORY VERSE: James 4:4