

THE BOOK OF
JAMES
 MAKING FAITH WORK

Faith and Works
 - An eternal attitude
 James 4:13-5:11

Summary

An eternal attitude - 'Living lightly in the light of eternity'.

James encourages us to limber up and live our lives in a more nimble, open & patient way, where we stop pretending we are in control and instead live in the light of eternity

- Key point 1. **Live lightly** (James 4:13-17)
 - James writes that we don't even know what our lives will be like tomorrow and yet we live with the pretence that we're in control. What might it look like to grow in seeking God's plans and purposes for us as individuals and a community?
- Key point 2. **Live openly** (James 5:1-6)
 - James writes that focus on our wealth and possessions reveals a lack of eternal perspective: 'This corroded treasure you have hoarded will testify against you on the day of judgment' (v 3). What might it look like to live more openly and less attached to our money and possessions?
- Key point 3. **Live patiently in trust** (James 5:7-11)
 - James encourages us to be 'patient as you wait for the Lord's return' (v7). And yet in reality how often do we live as though this life is all there is? We can only let go of trying to control our lives if we can fully trust in the Lord, who is 'full of tenderness and mercy'. Where do we struggle to believe this and how might we move towards the kind of patient trust that James encourages?

Questions:

Conversation Starter

1. Do we use the phrase 'God willing' when talking about future plans? If so what do we mean when we do? Do you think Covid has made you more open to disrupted plans? If so, has that made you pray/seek God more about your plans?

Start thinking and sharing

2. Do you naturally have an 'eternal attitude'. What things cause you to focus on the 'temporary of today'? E.g. Money, work or family commitments, technology? How might we live our days more in the light of eternity?
3. Do you like change or prefer things to stay the same? How are you feeling about the changes at Springfield in this season?

Start praying

4. Heavenly Father, we are sorry when we only focus on the temporary and forget the eternal perspective that you call us to. Thank you that our eternal life with you begins now - please help us to live more fully in light of that reality. Amen.

Start doing

5. What things are you planning at the moment (holidays, work, family, Springfield etc) that you could commit to the Lord and ask for his direction?
6. What areas of change are you experiencing in your life that you could seek God's eternal perspective for?