

## "On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

## James 2

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These five chapters of James are powered packed with life. James is the most practical of all the books of the New Testament and makes most of us feel somewhat uncomfortable just reading through it. He puts us in confrontation with places we find ourselves each day, in trials, in temptations. He speaks of doing what we say, and not just knowing something or some truth, but also acting on what we know.

Chapter two begins with a warning to not act toward anyone with partiality, especially regarding the public assembly of believers that we know as the local church. This is a sin that is prevalent in this day when churches need funds to operate and sometimes make allowances for those who give a lot and have much of this world's wealth, as though that is a sign of the blessing of God. This type of thinking affects us more than would like to admit. We must be careful putting on stage those who give a lot, but maybe are not as faithful in walking with God, in contrast to those who have faithfully tithed and given sacrificially from a

meager salary in comparison, but Godlier as a way of life. It can go both ways, but this is the warning of the Lord's brother and pastor of the early church in Jerusalem. We must minister to the minister, to the up and out, as well as those who are down and out.

James sums up this section by speaking to the heart of the matter, and this is what he calls the "Royal Law." This is a reference to the Great Commandment of Loving God supremely and those who are made in His image as we would desire to be treated and as God Himself has treated us. Remember the aspect of "loving your neighbor is taken from Leviticus 19:17-18 especially where God spoke of grudges and taking vengeance upon those who harm us and mistreat us. God has shown us mercy and we must do the same for others. Today, on the podcast there is special attention given to James 2:14-26 which deals with faith versus works. Every child of God needs to know how to handle versus and deal with "seemingly" which is a contradiction with what the Apostle Paul dealt with in Romans four.

### Prayer and Action Steps

***Lord, please help me to treat people the gracious and kind way you have treated me no matter how much they possess in this world!***

***Amen***