

Scripture Reading for James 2:14-26
Psalm 78:1-8 & Isaiah 29:13-14

Listen, O my people, to my instruction; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.

We will not conceal them from their children, but tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wondrous works that He has done.

For He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers that they should teach them to their children,

That the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, that they may arise and tell them to their children,

That they should put their confidence in God and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments,

And not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation that did not prepare its heart and whose spirit was not faithful to the LORD.

Then the LORD said, “Because this people draw near with their words and honor Me with their lip service, but they remove their hearts far from Me, and their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote,

Therefore behold, I will once again deal marvelously with this people, wondrously marvelous;

And the wisdom of their wise men will perish, and the discernment of their discerning men will be concealed.

Through the New Testament

James 2:14-26

“Three Challenges to What We Say We Believe”

Introduction:

In Paul’s letters to the Romans and Galatians, he is comparing faith with *works of the Law*. The issue is _____.

In James’ letter to young Jewish Christians, he is challenging faith with *changed behavior*. The issue is _____.

In 14-17, James questions Christians’ words vs. _____.
He challenges Christians to have their behaviors match their words by demonstrating _____.

In 18-26, James questions Christians’ _____.
He challenges Christians to examine _____.

He challenges Christians to validate the authenticity of their faith by showing that *real faith results in* _____.

Changed behavior must involve _____.

Changed behavior must involve _____.

Closing Chorus

The Lord bless thee and keep thee,

The Lord make His face to shine upon thee,

And be gracious unto thee, be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance

Upon thee and give thee peace.

(“The Lord Bless Thee” by Chuck Butler)