

# Global Impact Weekend

*September 13-16*



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Fall Series:



James

*The practice of practical faith*

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August 19, 2018- The Practice of Practical Faith (Paul Smith)

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# The Practice of Practical Faith

## James 1:22 & 25

The optional icebreaker is a question for everyone to answer so each person gets a chance to talk. This is especially helpful for a new group to get to know one another or to get the quiet people to be more comfortable talking in the group. It can be a lighthearted, nonthreatening question for new groups or a question that allows for transparency for more seasoned groups.

Icebreaker suggestions: What is your oldest piece of clothing and how long have you had it? What do you do with gifts you don't like?, or What are you currently trusting God for that only He can do?

1. James Overview:

Who are the two main characters?

What is the main theme of the book?

To whom was the book written?

Who was the writer?

2. How did God use the persecution of the early Jewish Christians to fulfill His purpose?

Acts 8:1, Acts 11:19

3. "For James, personal pain was not a sufficient reason to stop putting our faith into practice." Give an example of personal pain that God has used in your life to fulfill His purpose.

Was it a difficult time for you?

4. The main theme of James is "Christian Harmony between what we believe about God and how we live as His children."

What kinds of subtle things can cause discord between what we believe and what we do?

What does that discord look like, especially in our families, employment and neighborhoods?

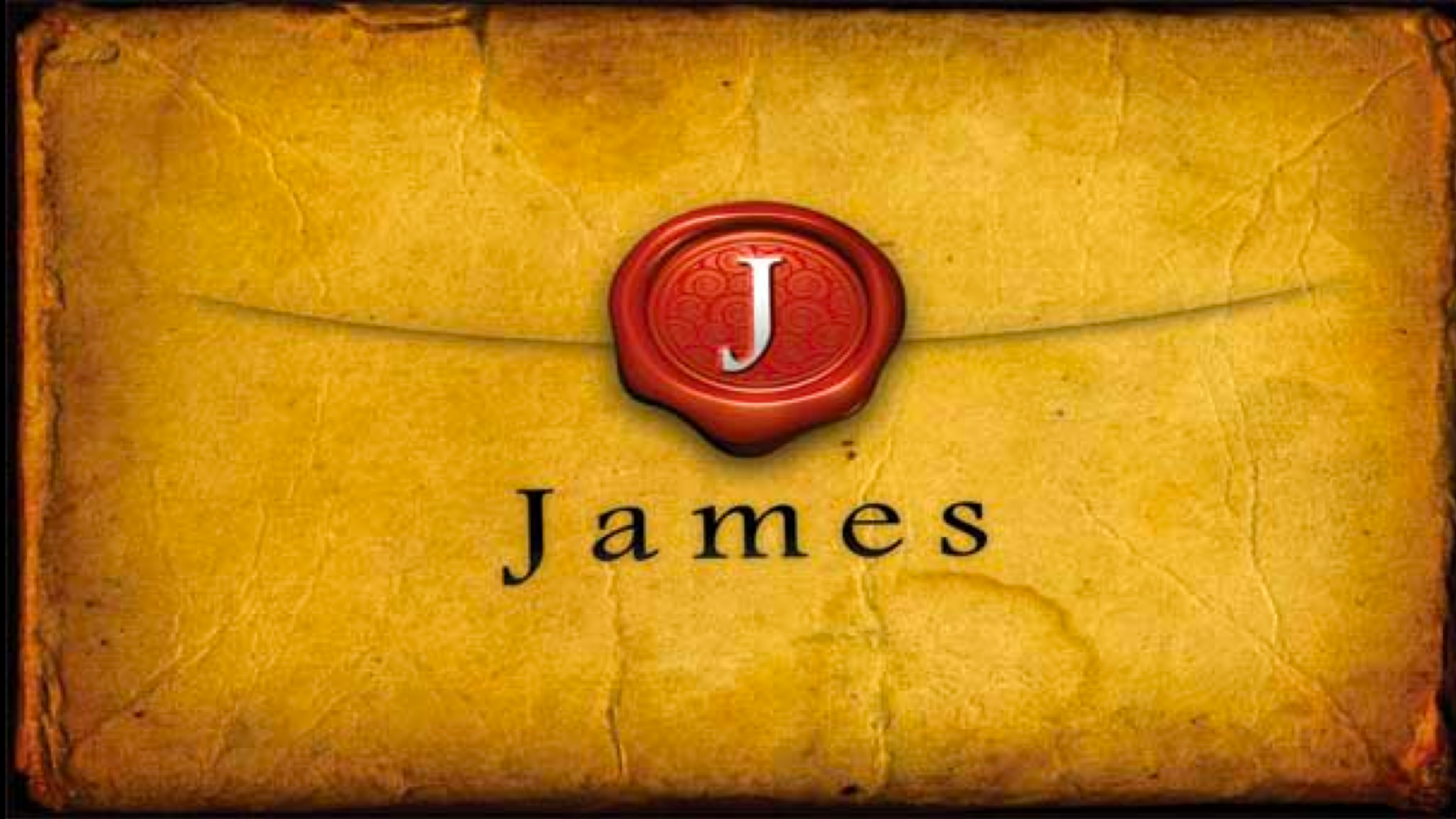
5. "You were created on purpose and you were created for a purpose."

What is your purpose (both general and specific) and what things can cause you to get distracted from fulfilling that purpose?

6. "James reminds us that there is no comfortable way to be fully engaged in Christ's Great Commission!"

What is your experience of being "uncomfortable" as a follower of Christ and what made you willing to embrace it?

Fall Series:



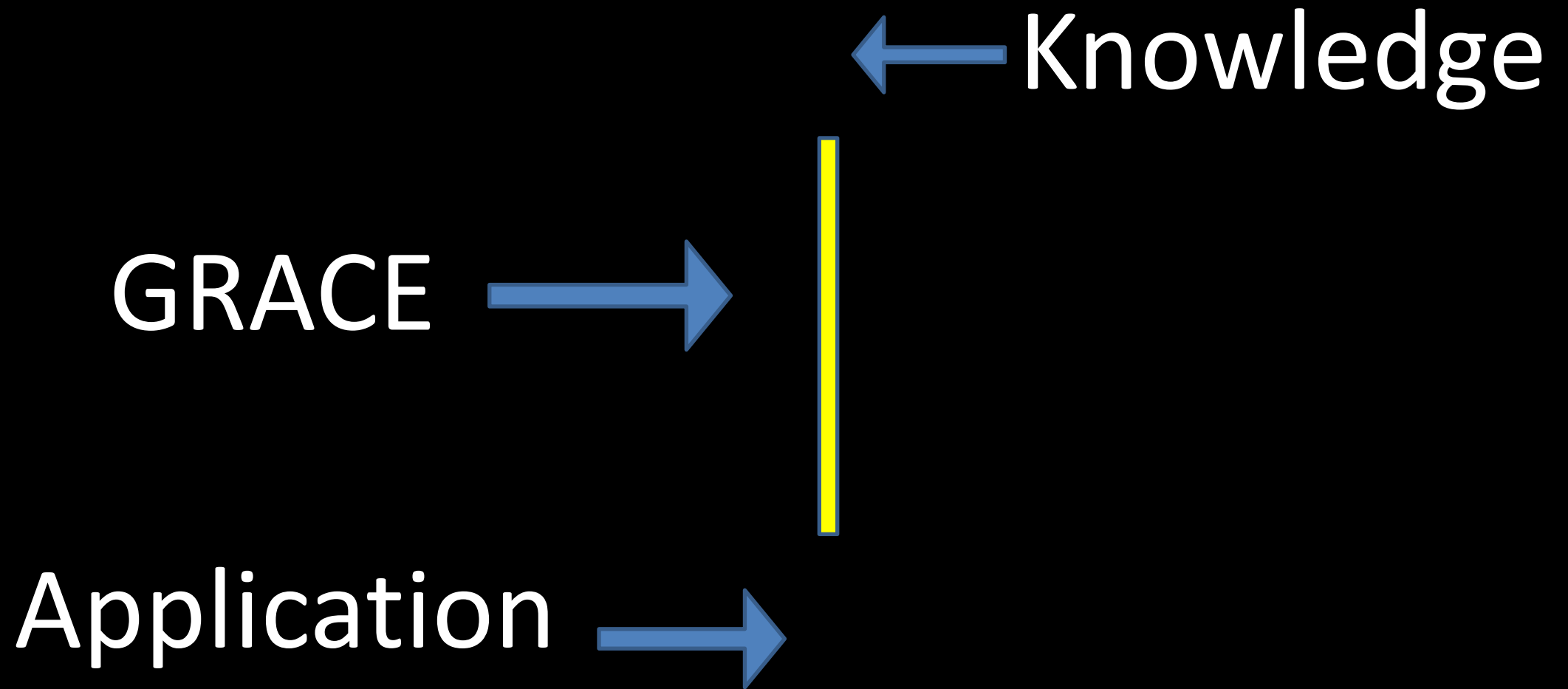
*The practice of practical faith*

Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says.**

The man... not forgetting what he has heard, but **doing it** – he will be **blessed** in what he **does**.

James 1:22; 25

For knowledge to fulfill  
its intended **purpose**  
it must be **applied**.



“But he gives **more grace**...Humble yourself before the Lord and he will **lift you up**.”

James 4: 6;10

God's grace both

**Pardons** and **Empowers** us.





Caesarea •

**SAMARIA**

Samaria •  
(the city)

WEST  
BANK

Jericho •

Jerusalem •

Dead  
Sea

**JUDEA**

STRIP

Jordan River Valley

“American culture is shifting into a different era in which Christianity is not necessarily seen as a social good; it is seen as socially awkward at best, and subversive at worst.

For a long time the church assumed the culture wanted to live up to its conception of the good life. The church needs to see that if those days ever existed, they are no more!”

-Russell Moore

When Christians put their  
faith into **action**, the  
**purposes** of God are **fulfilled**.



# Great Value

## WAL\*MART











As Christians...

*In a changing culture, how do we  
show others the **great value** of  
Jesus to our lives?*



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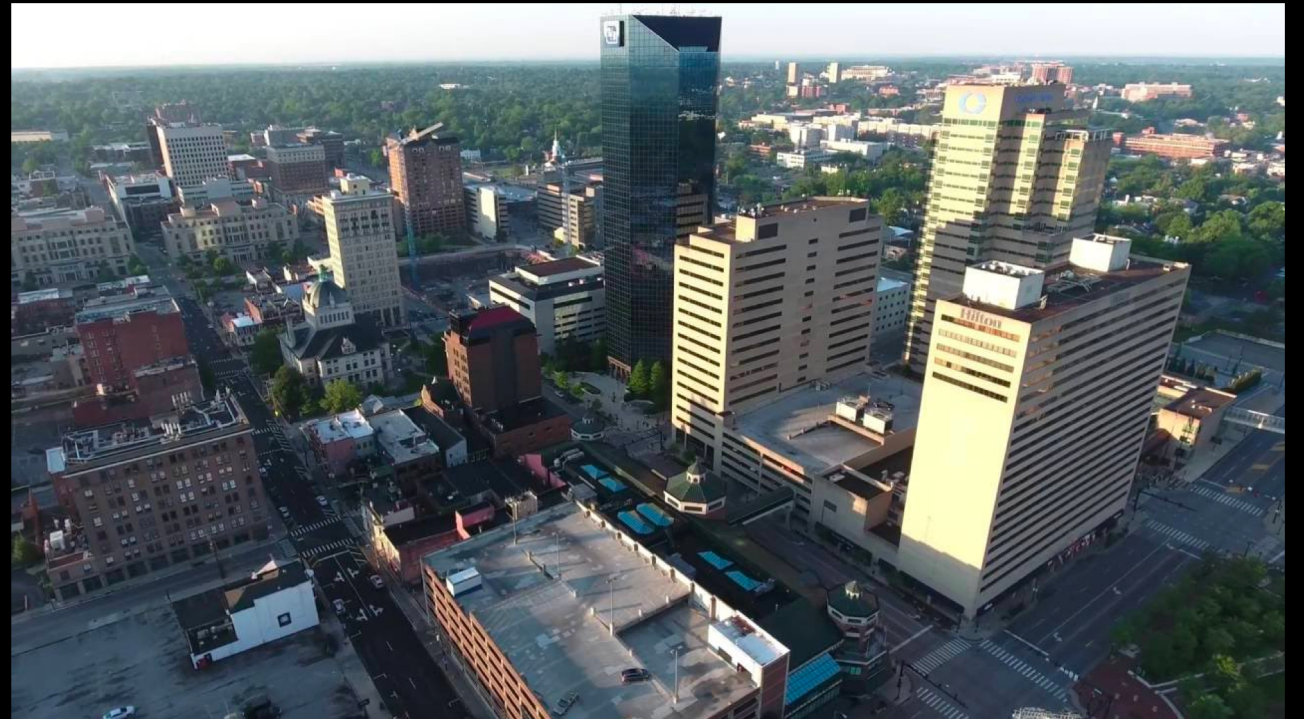
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Big Idea...

*Nothing draws out and shows the  
glorious value of Jesus in a life like  
difficulty.*

Is life....

Easy or Hard

?

Big Idea...

*Nothing draws out and shows the  
glorious value of Jesus in a life like  
difficulty.*



Part 1

*Key Words in the text.*

Part 2

*Four experiences I can have  
that show the glorious value of  
Jesus in my life*

**Trial:** *An external pressure; that of being crushed.*

**Testing:** *An internal 'crucible' for the sake of purification.*

**Perseverance:** *Endurance in consistency of purpose.*

**Mature:** *Whole in mental and moral character.*

**Wisdom:** *The knowledge and the practice of upright and Godly living.*

**Doubt:** *One who hesitates because they sit in judgment.*

Double

minded: *Two affectual loyalties.*

Stood the

test: *Not counterfeit or fake.*

*To know and show the  
glorious value of Jesus in a  
life during **difficulty**  
we must **respond correctly**.*



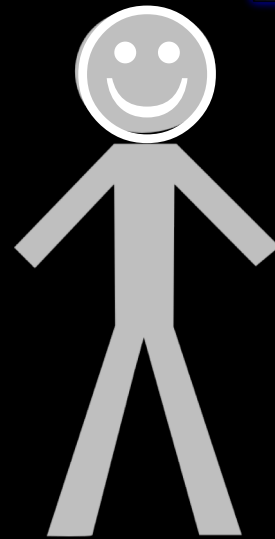
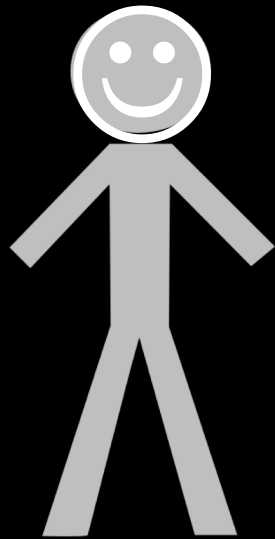
Part 2

*Four experiences I can have  
that show the glorious value of  
Jesus in my life*

1. *God given **JOY** in the  
face of pain.*

*“The Christian’s joy is essentially the  
enjoyment of our God, and our relationship  
with him.”*

Jerry Bridges





*“The lessons I have learned about God have been so satisfying that I wouldn’t give back this wheel chair for anything!”*

Joni Erickson Tada

*I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*

*Phil 4: 12-13*

## 2. *Maturity* in the midst of struggle.

*“Part of our struggle with God working spiritual maturity into our lives is that we often fail to agree with God how little we have of it (maturity) and how much we need it.”* D. Moo

# Perseverance =

Our deliberate choice to stay faithful to God's will in difficult situations knowing that God is working for our good and his glory.







3. *Wisdom in the midst  
of testing.*

*Wisdom is knowledge and the  
practice of upright and Godly living.*

**I THINK  
EVERYBODY  
SHOULD GET  
RICH AND  
FAMOUS AND  
DO EVERYTHING  
THEY EVER  
DREAMED OF SO  
THEY CAN SEE  
THAT IT'S NOT  
THE ANSWER.**

**- JIM CARREY**









4. *Blessing according to  
God promises.*

“But if you remain faithful even when facing death, I will give you the crown of life.”

Rev. 2:10

What next step can I take...

Count it: all your reasons for joy.

Mine it: the book of James.

