James And Faith
James 1:2-6

Introduction:

A. James writes about some practical aspects of our faith.
   1. Our faith is based on word of God. (Rom. 10:6-8, 17).
   2. Our faith is not a dead, but active faith. (Jas. 2:26-28).

B. James links our faith to other things that need our attention.

Discussion:

II. Faith and Trials (1:2-4).
A. Our faith can be made stronger by trials.
   1. Persecutions at Jerusalem. (Acts 8)
   2. Problems at Corinth. (1 Cor. 11:19).

B. Our faith shows itself best under trial.

III. Faith and Prayer (1:5,6; 5:15).
A. Prayer is for people of faith. ("righteous man")
B. Prayer is not a mere ritual to be repeated. (Matt. 6:5ff).
C. Prayer must be done in faith.
   1. It is this kind of prayer that will bring wisdom in trial.
   2. It is this kind of prayer that will heal the sick. (5:16).
   3. It is this kind of prayer that believes God is able and willing.

D. Prayer does not require a miraculous answer. (Ch. 5:16-18).

IV. Faith and Materialism. (ch. 2:5).
A. One's financial worth is not material to our faith.
B. One who is poor may be rich in faith.
C. One who is rich must be poor in spirit and rich in good works (cf. 1 Tim. 6:17-19; Matt. 5:3).

V. Faith and Partiality (2:1-9)
A. Faith will overcome economic discrimination.
B. Faith will overcome racial discrimination (Acts 10:34-35).

VI. Faith And Works. (Ch. 2:14-26).
A. A dead faith without works. (vs. 14-17,26).
B. A living faith shown by works. (vs. 18).
C. Faith only is devils faith.
D. Abraham's Faith.

Conclusion:

A. How strong is your faith under trial?
B. How strong is your faith in reference to material things?
C. How strong is your faith in reference to prayer?
D. How strong is your faith in reference to works?