

WALKING IN TRUTH BY FAITH – 3

MAY 26, 2019

JAMES 1:16-22 (ESV)

James was writing to Christian Jews who were scattered because of persecution. Stephen was martyred and Saul was on a rampage. Fearing for their lives, they left Jerusalem and moved to nearby cities where they established churches. James encourages them to walk out their faith and not be deceived into thinking God was behind their struggles.

- **V16** – Deceived means to be misled, misinformed or led astray.
- **V17** – God is the giver of good and perfect gifts. He's not the cause of their struggles.
- **V18** – God willingly gave birth to us. Compare **JOHN 1:12-13**
- **V19** – Listen before speaking out in anger.
- **V20** – People don't live right when they're angry with God.
- **V21** – Our greatest need is deliverance from corrupt thinking.
- **V22** – If we don't do the Word, we won't grow out of being controlled by our emotional feelings and fleshly desires.

SPRITUAL GROWTH

1 PETER 2:1-2 (NLT) – Being born again doesn't mean we're full grown at once. We start as children, then young men, then fathers. It involves laying aside or putting off every kind of evil, deceit, hypocrisies, envies and all evil speaking. A new born Christian is to desire God's Word as a new born baby desires milk. **EPHESIANS 4:15** Notice the connection between speaking the truth in love and spiritual growth. **2 PETER 3:18** Spiritual growth also involves growing in grace and knowledge. **2 PETER 1:2-4 (KJV), 5-10 (NLT)** Peter instructs us to add to our faith characteristics that will make us more productive and useful believers.

NATURAL REALITY VS SPIRITUAL REALITY

JAMES 1:2-4

It takes faith to walk in truth. Our joy doesn't come from life experiences or outward circumstances. **ACTS 5:40-42 (NLT)** One can only rejoice in a flogging by faith.

JAMES 1:12-13

The crown of life is the reward for those who endure temptation: Anything that challenges our faith with the intent of getting us to murmur, rebel or sin against God. Such as persecution, affliction or tribulation.

JAMES 1:14-15

The real challenge comes from our flesh, lusts and emotional feelings. **ACTS 16:25-26**

CONCLUSION:

It takes faith to walk in truth. **HEBREWS 5:14 (ESV)** It takes constant practice to keep our emotional feelings in check. It's by faith we count it joy, forgive, overcome jealousy, anger, anxiety, low self-esteem, and every emotional feeling that exalts itself above the knowledge of God.