LIVING OUT SALVATION IN PRACTICAL WAYS

"If anyone thinks he is religious without controlling his tongue, his religion is useless and he deceives himself. Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained from the world." JAMES (James 1:26-27)

"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Can such faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, stay warm, and be well fed,' but you don't give them what the JAMES body needs, what good is it?" (James 2:14-16)

"In the same way faith, if it does not have works, is dead by itself. But someone will say, 'You have faith, and I have works.' Show me your faith without works, and I will show you faith by my works. You believe that God is one. Good! Even the demons believe—and they shudder. Senseless person! Are you willing to learn that faith without works is JAMES useless?" (James 2:17-20)

### • James yearns to see in the people of Jesus a faith that <u>works</u>.



#### Do you have a living relationship with the risen Christ and the Holy Spirit that <u>changes</u> both you and the communities in which you live?



COME: Receive His welcome, forgiveness, & gracious hospitality.



#### BELIEVE: Open yourself to trust





## REPENT: Turn the direction of your life toward Him; reorient.



## FOLLOW: Join Him in the adventure & let it change you.



FOLLOW: Join Him in the adventure & let it change you.
 Luke 9:23; 1 John 2:6; John 14:12; 15:14-16

JAMES

#### Invited into friendship with God, Jesus

asks us to...

COME
BELIEVE
REPENT
FOLLOW



#### "If anyone thinks he is religious... Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this..." (James 1:26-27)



#### • "Religion" / "Religious"

- True worshippers devoted to God and His will above their own
- To live as God would have one live
  To live like one should who believes in God
  To do what God requires JAMES

"The whole dance, or drama, or pattern of this three-Personal life is to be played out in each one of us: or (putting it the other way round) each one of us has got to enter that pattern, to take his place in that dance. There is no other way to the happiness for which we were **JAMES** made..."

"If you want joy, power, peace, eternal life, you must get close to, or even into, the thing that has them. They are not a sort of prize which God could, if He chose, just hand out to anyone. They are a great fountain of energy and beauty spurting up at the very center of reality. If you are close to it, the spray will wet you: if you are not, you will JAMES remain dry."

"Once a man is united to God, how could he not live forever? Once a man is separated from God, what can he do but wither and die?" (C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity)

JAMES

#### "The rhythm is gonna get you!"





## What are the three core movements of a life of friendship with God—the divine dance?



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The core movements of the divine dance:1. Control your tongue (and your anger)2. Look after orphans & widows in their distress

3. Keep oneself unstained from the world JAMES

"Mankind, he has told each of you what is good and what it is the LORD requires of you: to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

JAMES

The core movements of the divine dance: 1. Control your tongue - Walk humbly with your God 2. Look after orphans & widows - Love mercy

3. Keep oneself unstained from the **JAMES VARUES** 

*"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven..."* (Matthew 5:20)



#### "Thus, when you give to the needy... And when you pray... And when you fast..." (Matthew 6:2, 5, 16)



The core movements of the divine dance: 1. Control your tongue (PRAYER) 2. Look after orphans & widows (GIVING TO THE NEEDY) 3. Keep oneself unstained from the world (FASTING) JAMES

"Know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself. The LORD will hear when I call to him. Be angry and do not sin; reflect in your heart while on your bed and be silent. Offer sacrifices in righteousness and trust in the LORD." (Psalm 4:3-5)

# *"The sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit. You will not despise a broken and humbled heart, God." (Psalm 51:17)*



The core movements of the divine dance: 1. Control your tongue (PRAYER) 2. Look after orphans & widows (GIVING TO THE NEEDY) 3. Keep oneself unstained from the world (FASTING) JAMES

"Isn't this the fast I choose: To break the chains of wickedness, to untie the ropes of the yoke, to set the oppressed free, and to tear off every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, to bring the poor and homeless into your house, to clothe the naked when you see him, and not to ignore your own JAMES flesh and blood?" (Isaiah 58:6-7)

The core movements of the divine dance: 1. Control your tongue (PRAYER) 2. Look after orphans & widows (GIVING TO THE NEEDY) 3. Keep oneself unstained from the world (FASTING) JAMES

