

Don't Eat the Pie!

(James 1 & 2)

Don't let anyone sell you a bill of goods concerning God. If you do, it will be like a scene from the movie *The Help*, where the antagonist ate a pie thinking it was the best ever, only to later learn it had been laced with feces. I've heard that rat poison is 90% good corn, 10% strychnine. Although the larger portion is good, it's the 10% that will kill you. Don't let anyone or anything make you short circuit your faith.

Faith is...

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|----------------------|---|--|
| • Insight from God | - | Communion |
| • Agreement with God | - | Alignment & Confession |
| • Obedience | - | Action (Based on your insight and agreement) |

What Does Faith Do? (Heb. 11:33-34) (Or what or has been done through it)

1. Subdued Kingdoms
2. Wrought Righteousness
3. Obtained promises
4. Stopped the mouths of lions
5. Quenched the violence of fire
6. Escaped the edge of the sword
7. Out of weakness made strong
8. Waxed valiant in fight
9. Turned to flight the armies of the aliens

*Sometimes, we tend to forget that faith is not just for the altar, but it's also for the arena!

Daniel 3 – (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego) Boys in the fire (Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah)

- Misplaced modifier: “But if not” refers to the king's actions, not God's. The three Hebrew boys always unequivocally believed God would deliver them. They made an emphatic statement that God would because they had rock-solid faith in His Word! They never assumed they might die; they just made it clear to the king that, whether he threw them into the fire or not, they were not going to bow.

Daniel 6 – Daniel in the lion's den

I Samuel 17 – David slays Goliath

Joshua 6 – Jericho falls

I Samuel 14 – Jonathan and his armor bearer win the battle

Hebrews 1:1-3 – Jesus shows us and reveals to us the Father

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John 14:8 – Lord show us the Father and we will be satisfied (that will be enough for us)

NOTE: Many people (the Jewish leadership) did not believe Jesus was who He claimed to be, even though He fulfilled all the prophecies that were spoken of Him, including the four (4) that were put on the Messiah by the Pharisees:

1. Cleansing the leper (Matt. 8:1-4; Luke 5:12-16)
2. Healing a man born blind (John 9:1-12)
3. Raising a man who had been dead four (4) days (John 11:1-44)
4. Cast out a deaf and dumb spirit (Matt 17; Mark 7:32-37, 9:25; Luke 11:14)

James

Even Jesus' half brother James didn't believe. Historians tell us that James would find out where Jesus was going to preach, go ahead of Jesus and try to dissuade the people into not believing in Him.

According to 1 Cor. 15:7, Jesus appeared to James after the resurrection! He is the same James who wrote the book of James.

"The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church claims that James the Just, along with Peter, was a leader of the Church at Jerusalem and became the principal authority who presided at the Council of Jerusalem."

It was this James who wrote in James 1:2, "Count it all joy, when you fall into divers temptations knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience (perseverance or endurance)."

"Fall" – (Peripipto) – To fall around, to fall in with, to fall into, to be involved in

"Divers" – (Poikilos) – Variegated, checkered, various, diverse, manifold, various colors

"Temptations" – (Peirasmos) – A putting to proof, evil experience, solicitation, discipline or provocation, direct temptation to sin, trial, calamity, affliction

– Any outside source that appeals to the weakness of your flesh.

"Perseverance" – (Hupomone)

- Hupo – under, underneath something
- Meno – to stay or abide, to remain in one spot. To hold a position, maintain a territory that had been gained. (this is my story and I'm sticking to it!)

Stand Your Ground! No matter how difficult. Staying Power!

In essence: I ain't going another further!

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James 1:4 “But let perseverance have her perfect work (teleios) that you may be perfect (teleios) and entire (holokleros) wanting nothing.”

Teleios – Brought to completion, fully accomplished, fully developed, full grown of ripe age.

Holokleros – Whole, having all its parts, sound, perfect, complete in every part, faultless and blameless.

Holokleros (continued) – Retaining everything that was given to you by inheritance! (Healing, wholeness, prosperity, righteousness, peace, recompense, justice...all of the things the devil has been after.)

If you stand, you will receive and retain everything that was assigned to you by inheritance.

“Wanting Nothing” – This is a picture of you standing in the fulfillment of everything you’ve prayed and believed.

Hebrews 10:32: “But remember the former days, when after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings.

Hebrews 10:35: “Therefore do not cast away your confidence (Bold speaking) which has great (recompense) of reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.