

The Message of the New Testament

James, Peter, John, Jude

JAMES

James, the brother of Jesus, wrote this epistle to Christians of Jewish descent who had been spread around the world.

The message of this letter is that real _____ is unmistakably manifested in everyday life. In other words, if you have the kind of faith by which you are _____, it will be evidenced in the way you live your life. Therefore, live accordingly.

The nature and manifestation of real faith.

1. Real faith is tested by _____. When trials come, faith responds with _____ since testing produces steadfastness. (1:2-4)
2. Real faith seeks to live _____ in everyday life. It asks God for wisdom convinced that He _____ give it. So ask in faith without any doubting. (1:5-6; 3:13)
3. Real faith does not rest in or abuse _____. (1:9-11; 5:1-6)
4. Real faith is happy when it _____ temptation. (1:12)
5. Real faith looks to _____ for the good and perfect, in particular the gift of salvation. (1:17-18)
6. Real faith is quick to listen and slow to speak. Particularly to hear and do the word of God. (1:19, 22)
7. Real faith is not _____ toward people based on their outward appeal. (2:1-7)
8. Real faith is evidenced by good _____. (2:14-17)
9. Real faith works at controlling the _____. (3:2)
10. Real faith loves not the _____ but submits to God. (4:4-7)
11. Real faith does not _____ on God's providence. (4:13-15)
12. Real faith patiently awaits the _____ of Jesus. (5:7-8)
13. Real faith speaks with _____. (5:12)
14. Real faith participates in the life of the church with prayer, confession, and discipline. (5:14, 16, 19-20)

So the message of James is that real faith is demonstrated in the context of real life. It is clear that it is not just faith as a principle but faith in the Lord Jesus—a faith that rests in him for righteousness and a faith that looks forward to his return. (1:1; 2:1, 7; 3:2; 4:10; 5:7)

1 PETER

The message of the first epistle of Peter is a message of hope. God has provided a glorious salvation which calls for a life of holiness and which promises a glorious future.

GLORIOUS SALVATION

- #1. This salvation is according to God's _____ plan. (1:1-2, 10-12)
- #2. This salvation involves a new _____; is based on the work of Christ; and promises a glorious inheritance. (1:3-5; 3:18)
- #3. This salvation was a _____ from futility by the payment of Christ Jesus. (1:18-19; 2:24)
- #4. This salvation makes a people of great privilege. (2:4-5, 9-10)

A HOLY LIFE

- #1. The glorious salvation calls for a _____ life. (1:14-16; 4:1-2)
- #2. The glorious salvation equips you to _____ the brethren. (1:22-23)
- #3. The glorious salvation makes us foreigners in this world and we should be foreigners to the wicked ways of this world. (2:11, 13-15)
- #4. The glorious salvation calls us to live as servants of God.
As servants, wives, husbands (2:16, 18; 3:1-2, 7)
In the church (3:8-9; 4:8-11)
- #5. The glorious salvation calls us to rejoice in _____. (4:12-16)
- #6. The glorious salvation calls us to live in humility. (5:6-7)
- #7. The glorious salvation calls us to live with _____. (5:8-9)

A GLORIOUS FUTURE

- #1. The glorious future promises a great inheritance. (1:3b-5)
- #2. The glorious future strengthens us for action in the current time. (1:6, 13)
- #3. The glorious future encourages us to be self-controlled. (4:7)
- #4. The glorious future helps us endure current suffering. (4:13)

Peter's message then is that the elect of God have a glorious salvation which calls then to walk in holiness and look forward to the great consummation of that salvation.

2 PETER

The message of Peter's second epistle is be _____ for the day of the Lord. The epistle tells how and why to be ready for the day of the Lord.

Keys to readiness:

1. You have _____ you need. (1:3-4)
2. Keep _____. (1:5-8; 3:18)
3. Remember the _____ things. (1:12-15)
4. Be _____. (1:16, 19)
5. Beware of false teachers. (2:1)
6. Prepare for _____. (3:3-4, 8-10)
7. Be _____. (3:14)

Reasons for Readiness

1. The Day will bear judgment for the wicked. (2:6, 9; 3:7)
2. The Day will come _____. (3:10)
3. The Day is a day of salvation for his people. (1:11; 3:13, 15)

1 John

The message of the first epistle of John is that you can _____ that you have eternal life and here is how. (5:13)

The letter came on the occasion of false teachers who were trying to _____ the believers. (2:18-19, 26; 3:7; 4:1)

John's objective is to assure the believers. He does so by reminding them of the message he proclaimed to them and distinguishing it from lies. He further sets forth in a straightforward manner distinctions between those who have and do not have eternal life.

The Message John Proclaimed.

- ▶ It was based upon their knowledge and personal experience of the word of life (Jesus). (1:1-3)
- ▶ It was the message that God is _____ and to have fellowship with him is to share in and reflect his holiness and have our sins forgiven. (1:5-10)

Lies they must reject.

- ▶ We have no _____ or we have not sinned. (1:8, 10)
- ▶ Jesus is not the Christ. (2:22; 4:3)
- ▶ I can keep on living in willful sin and have the hope of heaven. (3:7-9)
- ▶ I don't have to _____ anybody! (2:9-11; 3:10b)
- ▶ "I love God!" when the speaker loves the world. (2:15)
- ▶ "I love God!" when the speaker does not love his brother. (4:20)

Signs of salvation.

- Walking in the Light (1:7) or not making a practice or lifestyle of sinning (3:6-8)
- Confession of sins (1:9)
- Keeping his _____ (2:3; 3:23-24; 5:2)
- Loving your brother (2:9-10; 3:14-15; 4:20)
- Remaining with the body of believers (2:19)
- Following the Apostolic teaching (4:6)
- Confessing Jesus as the Christ (4:2;5:1)
- Protecting fellow believers (5:18)
- Fidelity to _____ (5:20-21)

The lesson from the message of 1 John is to pursue the _____; flee from the lies; pursue the marks of a true believer; love God; love Jesus so you can stand assured that you are a child of God, greatly loved by Him.

2 JOHN

The message of 2 John continues in the spirit of 1 John. It is this: continue in the _____ of Jesus Christ.

John loves the elect lady and her children in the truth (1) because of the truth (2). He rejoiced that some of her children were walking in the truth (4). His request is for the love of one another by keeping Christ's commandments. He urges her not to be deceived by or even greet anyone who teaches that Jesus Christ did not come in the flesh.

3 JOHN

The message of 3 John is that believers should support and welcome fellow workers for the truth.

John commends Gaius for his hospitality to fellow workers for the truth who had "gone out for the sake of the name." He condemns Diotrephes who _____ apostolic authority and refuses to welcome fellow workers. He commends to Gaius Demetrius whom he has sent, a fellow gospel worker. (8)

JUDE

The message of Jude is " _____ for the faith." (3)

The danger that demands such an exhortation is false teachers. (4, 17-19)

How to contend. (20-23)

A Closing Prayer. (Jude 24-25)