

# FAITH <sup>THAT</sup> WORKS

Order of Service | February 2-3, 2019

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## James 3:13 – 4:17

A FAITH THAT WORKS, IS A FAITH THAT TRUSTS GOD IN ALL THINGS.

*If you are wise and understand God's ways, **prove it** by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom.*  
**James 3:13 (NLT)**

Wisdom is the application of the knowledge we have gained.

Wisdom requires trust.

When God reveals His truth to us and yet we say "yeah, but I am not going to do that", what we are really saying is "**GOD, I DON'T TRUST YOU**".

**4 Simple indicators I may be struggling to trust God:**

- 1. If I am always comparing.** *But if you are bitterly jealous... James 3:14 (NLT)*
- 2. If I am always competing.** *...and there is selfish ambition in your heart...James 3:14 (NLT)*
- 3. If I am always complaining.** *...don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying... James 3:14 (NLT)*
- 4. If I am always living a life of chaos.** *For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and*

*demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. James 3:15-16 (NLT)*

## **HOW TO BUILD MY TRUST IN GOD:**

### **1. I must humbly, and completely, embrace the thoughts and ways of God.**

*But the wisdom from above is first of all pure (Holy/trust God completely). It is also peace loving, gentle at all times (patient), and willing to yield to others (considerate). It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds (genuinely cares for others). It shows no favoritism (embraces all) and is always sincere (without hypocrisy). James 3:17 (NLT)*

### **2. I must humbly choose to submit to God's will over my wants.**

*...“God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” Submit yourselves, then, to God. James 4:6-7 (NIV)*

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways **submit** to Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)*

### **3. I must obediently do what He has shown me to do.**

*If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them. James 4:17 (NLT)*

*“If you love Me, you will do what I say.” John 14:15 (NLT)*

Going deeper on your own: “In God We Trust”...Do I really? What would it look like to trust God fully? Now read James starting at 3:13 through the end of chapter 4. Read it slowly and out loud. Now read it again and make a list of all the characteristics of someone who does not trust God completely. Circle those characteristics you struggle with. Now read it again and write down the characteristics of someone who does trust God complete. Look up Matthew 11:18-30 and John 10:10. Have you ever fully trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord? If not, do it today. Pray and get honest with Him about the areas you struggle with and ask Him to be the Lord over those areas. Then strive to learn where you can obediently trust and follow Him.