

South Sub Church

February 22, 2026

Real Faith Chooses Humility

James 4:1-17 (NIV) [7-12 listed]

⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. ¹¹ Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. ¹² There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

Sermon Summary:

“Faith — IRL (In Real Life)” is an eight-week journey through the book of James, a letter that refuses to let faith remain theoretical, private, or passive. James insists that real faith shows up in the real world—shaping our responses, directing our actions, and transforming our relationships. In other words, genuine faith is always lived, never merely believed.

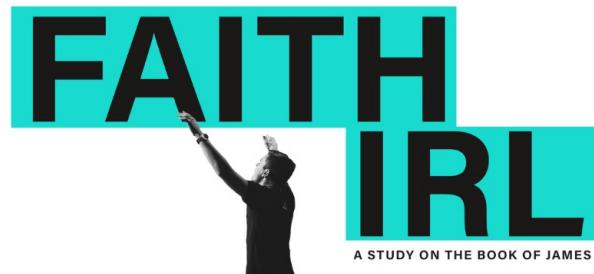
This series will challenge us and equip us to be doers of the Word, learning how a real, active faith navigates real-world trials, choices, relationships, and opportunities. Together, we will discover how faith lived in real life doesn’t just talk—but truly walks.

Ice Breaker Questions:

1. What’s something you *thought* would go one way this week but didn’t?
2. If your schedule suddenly cleared for one free hour, how would you spend it?
3. What’s a small thing that can instantly change your mood—for better or worse?
4. Would you rather have everything planned out or be surprised in a good way?
5. If life had an “undo” button, when would you have used it this past week?

Scripture Study Questions:

1. According to verses 1–2, what does James say is the source of quarrels and fights among believers?
2. In verse 2, what reasons does James give for people not having what they want?
3. According to verse 3, why do some prayers go unanswered?



4. In verse 4, how does James describe friendship with the world, and what does it make a person toward God?
5. According to verses 5–6, what does God do toward the proud, and what does He give to the humble?
6. In verses 7–8, what commands does James give regarding God, the devil, and personal purity?
7. According to verses 9–10, what attitudes and actions does James call for in response to sin?
8. In verses 11–12, what warnings does James give about speaking against or judging others?
9. According to verses 13–15, how does James describe human plans and the proper way believers should speak about the future?
10. According to verses 16–17, what does James say about boasting, arrogance, and knowing the right thing to do but failing to do it?

Interpretive Questions:

1. How does James connect internal desires with external conflict in verses 1–2?
2. What does James reveal about the nature of prayer when he says some requests go unanswered because of wrong motives (v. 3)?
3. Why does James describe friendship with the world as spiritual adultery, and what does this reveal about God's expectations for His people (v. 4)?
4. What does James mean by saying that God "yearns jealously" over the spirit He has placed within us (v. 5)?
5. What is James's concern about believers speaking against or judging one another (vv. 11–12)?

Application Questions:

1. Where do unchecked desires or expectations tend to create conflict in your relationships?
2. In what ways might you be pursuing closeness with the world in ways that quietly distance you from God?
3. What would humility before God look like in a specific area where you tend to rely on yourself?
4. Where are you tempted to speak critically about others rather than trust God as the rightful Judge?
5. Is there something you already know God is calling you to do but have delayed acting on—and why?