

SERMON STUDY NOTES

25th July 2021

Speaker: Martin Armstrong

Active Faith: Logos Rhema James 2:14-17

(Select the questions that suit your group. There are enough questions here for 2 or 3 meetings...)

1. James listed a whole bunch of things that can destroy our witness & testimony: *A lack of wisdom, doubt, pride, double mindedness, a lack of perseverance, anger, moral filth, disobedience, an uncontrolled tongue, a lack of concern for the helpless, being polluted by the world, discrimination, a lack of love, judging without showing mercy, faith without works...* How many out of the 15 do you battle with?
2. Amos 3:2-3 Can *two people walk hand in hand if they aren't going to the same place?* How does this verse relate to walking in step with the Holy Spirit? Gal 5:25
3. New Christians are often the most effective soul winners. They may know little about theology but people notice the change in their lives. *Share some testimony on the impact you had on others when you first became a Christian.*
4. People we meet day by day aren't really interested in our beliefs...but they're interested in how we live our lives & cope with temptation & difficulty. *Discuss*

5. If our words are not backed up by a change in our lives, they are meaningless. How do you feel when you encounter people who do not practice what they preach? *Give some examples*
6. Imagine if you are the only Christian that the people you know will see. Their impression of what Christianity is all about is based on you. Do you leave them without excuse? *Discuss*
7. Avoiding an issue by saying “*I’ll pray about it*” (James 2:16) can be the biggest cop-out – some things we’re not to pray about but just to do. *Discuss*
8. *Discuss Mark 7:52 For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.* Does this mean that if they understood, they would have had the power to command the wind to stop?
9. Can you think of a time when you were facing a difficult situation — and suddenly it was as if God dropped a verse into your heart that had the very answer you needed? Did it equip you to deal with the challenge you were facing and cause the situation to turn around?
10. Think of three times in your life when you emphatically knew that God gave you a *rhema* for the particular situation you were facing? What were those times, and how did that *rhema* make a difference?

11. Are there any areas in your life right now where you could use a *rhema* from the Holy Spirit to help you know how to overcome a problem or a challenge?
12. Often the greatest blockage to hearing and obeying the word is religion. Jesus accused the religious leaders in Mark 8:9 of "*setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!* v13 *Thus you nullify the word of God by placing opinions & traditions above kingdom reality.* In doing this we turn off the power of the word of God. Discuss.
13. When Jesus healed the blind man Mark 8:23. He walked him out of town and put spit on his eye – a strange thing to do with a person who cannot see his way around. God's agenda is often different. Can you remember a time you felt God told you to do something weird?
14. Pray for each other. If the Lord gives you a Rhema word or verse for a person, speak it out.