

Volume 5, Day 9: Significance of Perceptions about God

The seeming contradiction of James' words that "justification comes by works" is that we have misunderstood what James was trying to communicate. (Even Martin Luther argued against the Book of James being included in the canon of scripture over this misunderstanding on Luther's part.) James is all about relationship. James, the man, was the brother of Jesus and failed to recognize Jesus as God until after the resurrection. The Greek language more accurately interpreted is that, if "proclaimed" faith does not have the resulting actions of that faith, it is useless. It also implies that even works, that may look like they are produced by faith, can be counterfeit acts as they are empty of the love which would autonomically produce them. In other words, as the Apostle Paul states clearly in 1 Corinthians 13, magnificent words and works in the absence of love are useless.

Our misperceptions of God have stunted our Christian growth. Allowing God to correct the misperceptions is neither a threat to faith nor denomination. The truth will simply set you free from guilt, shame and fear that Jesus took with Him onto the cross for us. Allowing the "unconditional" love of God to permeate your soul is the only solution to the sin problem after Salvation. "The greatest deterrent to wrong-full behavior is an incredible affection for the one I might otherwise do wrong." — J H Alan

To experience the peace of God in all things consider James' words: "Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way." — James 1:2-4 MSG

True surrender is only achieved when control is released to another trustworthy person to handle the situation in the best possible way. Isn't God that trustworthy other.

My Confirming Scriptures and Aligning Experiences:

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan