



THE BIBLE SAYS THERE ARE TWO WAYS THAT GOD MAKES US LIKE JESUS:

John 17:17 *“Sanctify them through thy word. Thy word is truth.”*

1. THE _____

2 Timothy 3:16-17 *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man or woman of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

2. _____ OF LIFE

This is where James hits the nail on the head!

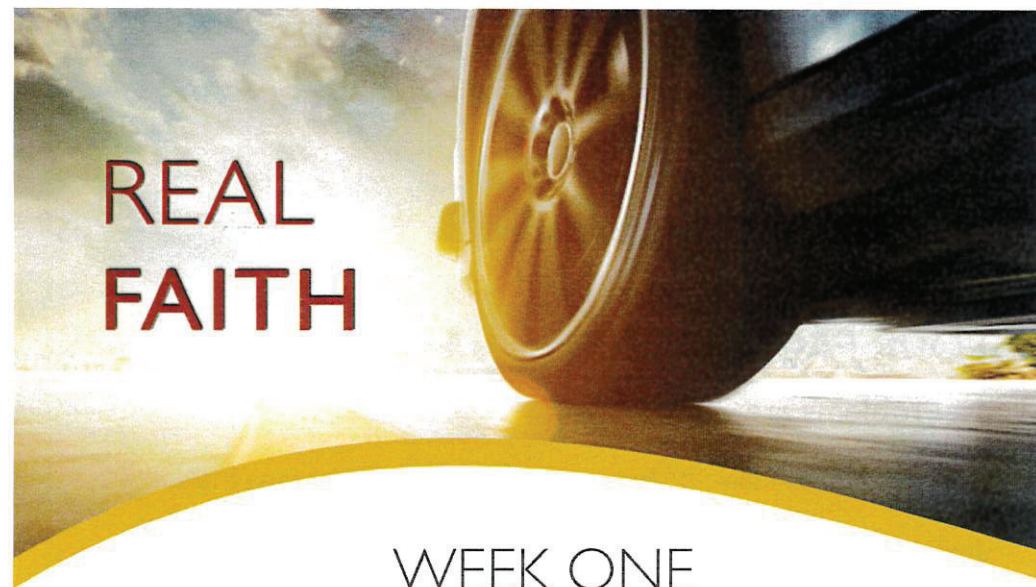
Romans 8:28 *“We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”*

The secret of Romans 8:28 is found in Romans 8:29: *“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of his son...”*

WEEK ONE ICONNECT GROUPS: The Book of James is focused on maturity. This week I will learn 3 practical ways to respond to problems and challenges in my life.



WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD!



REAL FAITH

WEEK ONE “HOW REAL FAITH IS DEVELOPED BY REAL PROBLEMS”

THEME SCRIPTURE: JAMES 1:1-6

“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, **because you know** that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.”

Who is James? _____

Key phrase: “Because you _____”

WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD!



FOUR FACTS OF LIFE:

1. Problems are _____

Scripture doesn't say "If" but rather "whenever" you face trials.

Jesus said in John 16:33: *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

2. Problems are _____

"...whenever you face trials..."

"Face" is "Peripipto" in Greek which means _____

3. Problems are _____

"...whenever you face trials of many kinds."

Problems vary in _____, _____ and _____

4. Problems are _____

James 1:2-4 (MSG). *"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 that **you may become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.**"*

3 WAYS GOD IS WORKING IN ME THROUGH MY PROBLEMS:

1. Problems purify _____

"...the testing of your faith develops perseverance."

Testing= a Greek word for sterling coinage. Dokimion means something tried, proven, a test. The root means _____

Job 23:10 (DRA) *"But he knoweth my way, and has tried me as gold that passeth through the fire."*

2. Problems strengthen _____

"...the testing of your faith develops perseverance."

Perseverance in Greek (#5281 Hypomone) means the ability to _____

The root word means "a man/woman who does not swerve from their deliberate purpose and their loyalty to faith even in the greatest trials."

3. Problems sanctify _____

"The testing of your faith produces perseverance that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

Maturity is God's goal. A picture of maturity is Jesus.

God's #1 purpose in your life is _____