

December 21

James 2:14-17

In this short reading, James writes of the importance of *living* the faith we proclaim.

Question to Consider:

James says that faith is dead unless it is accompanied by action. Do you agree? Honestly reflect on your daily living. What do your actions say about your faith?

Prayer:

Father God, help me to grow as a person of action in terms of my faith. I pray that my relationship with you will be increasingly reflected in everything that I do. I pray that my actions each day will proclaim my faith in Jesus Christ. In His name I pray, Amen.

December 22

James 3:3-12

In this passage, James writes about the power of the tongue to do good, or evil.

Question to Consider:

Can you think of a time when the words you spoke got you in trouble? What happened, and what did you learn from the experience?

Prayer:

Loving God, help me to think before I speak and use words that lift up rather than tear down. I pray for wisdom as I speak with other people, and I pray for forgiveness when I say words that cause pain. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

December 23

1 Peter 2:4-10

In these verses, Peter writes that we have a special relationship with God by virtue of our faith in Jesus Christ.

Question to Consider:

Peter says that by virtue of your faith in Christ, you are part of "a royal priesthood." What does that mean to you?

Prayer:

Gracious God, I give thanks that because of Christ, I have received your grace and mercy. I give thanks that because of Christ, I am now in a new relationship with you and that I will be with you forever. And, I give thanks that "forever" begins today. In Christ's name I pray, Amen.

December 24

2 Peter 3:3-18

In this concluding section of Peter's second letter, he writes about the day of the Lord, when the world as we know it will come to an end.

Question to Consider:

Some of the language in these verses is frightening, and yet the point is clear – there will come a day when the world as we know it will end. It can come at any time. Peter says that as followers of Christ we should look forward to that day. Do you? Are you ready?

Prayer:

Almighty God, I know the time will come when the world as we know it will come to an end. Even though I believe it to be true, it is still difficult to comprehend. Help me to live my life as you would have me do, so that I am always prepared for that day – whenever it comes. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

December 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS !!!

On this Christmas day, return to the gospel of Luke and re-read the wonderful story of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Read Luke 1:5-2:20.