

WELCOME TO SELAH סלה

Come in.
Sit down.
Grab a drink
Play a game.
Do the puzzle.
Meet someone new
Catch up with a friend.

*Relax. Rest. Breathe.
For the next two hours
nothing else matters but
you, us, & God.*

*It's still the
season of light,
the season after
the Epiphany.*





**Please sign up
To help at the Mardi
Gras Pancake Supper**

The Carnival Season

THE LAST SUNDAY
AFTER THE EPIPHANY



TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Transformer Sunday

In the presence of God we are transformed



More than meets the eye.

*A reminder not only of our invitation
this year but for the Famine.*

Come and See...

-Jesus

& a reminder of who we are and why we are here.

We are a community of seekers trying to live with God in this world



**Our liturgy, Our service to God,
Our work of God, Our Opus Dei**



The Invitatory

Blow the ram's horn, God is here...

The Lord be with you
And Also with you.

God is made known to us through Jesus, the Christ.
God is present to us

God you are in the midst of us.
and we are called by your name.
Be near to us, Lord.

Encircle and shield us, saving One.
Guide and heal us, redeeming One.

Glory this night to the Father and to the Son and to
the Holy Spirit.

*As it was in the beginning, is now and will be
forever. Amen.*

LET US PRAY WITH ONE HEART AND ONE MIND THAT
THIS EVENING MAY BE
HOLY, GOOD AND PEACEFUL.

-----CLOSE YOUR EYES AND TAKE ANOTHER DEEP BREATH.
AND PRAY. GOD IS NEAR ----

The Versicle: a little sound bite from God.

Psalm 86:11

Teach me your way, O LORD,
and I will walk in your truth;
knit my heart to you
that I may fear your Name.



STEP OUT OF THE TRAFFIC...

FOR TWO HOURS STEP AWAY FROM... FOR TWO HOURS STEP OUT OF...
FOR TWO HOURS LEAVE BEHIND...
FOR TWO HOURS...

Step out of the traffic & take a long loving look at God



Be here. Be with each other. Be with God.

The lighting of the candles





Praying with the Church:

**Almighty God,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
intelligence to understand you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
vision to behold you,
a heart to meditate on you,
a life to proclaim you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with the
Holy Spirit, one God
now and forever.**

We are a thankful people.

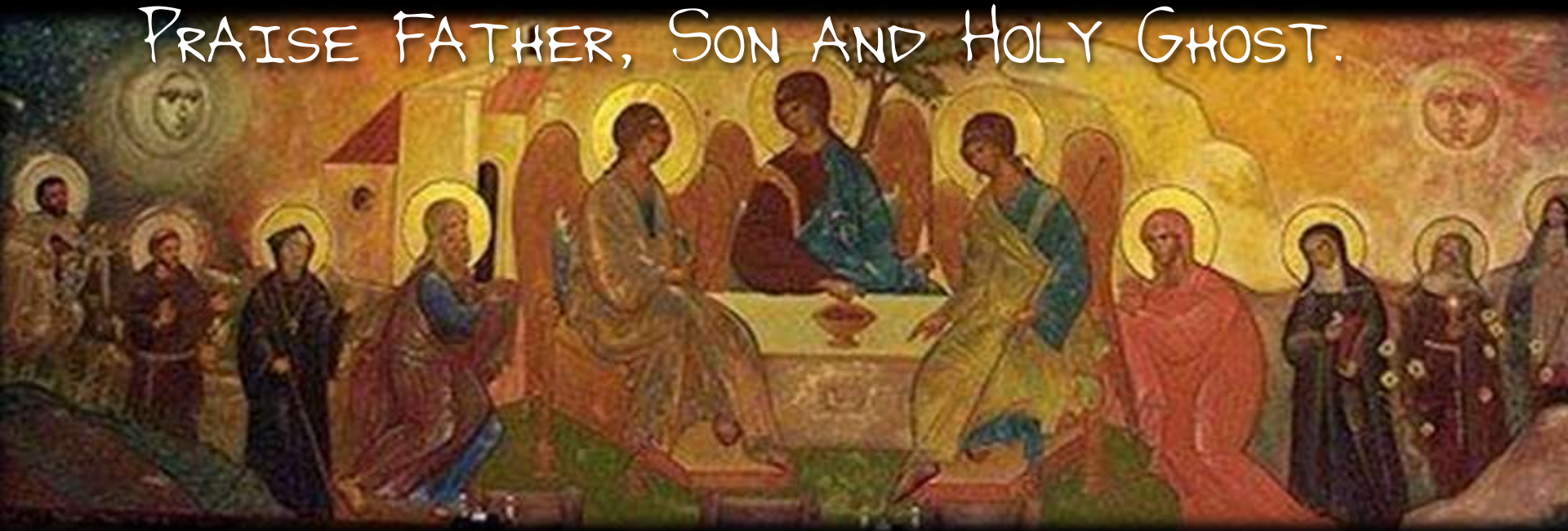
We give thanks to God:

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

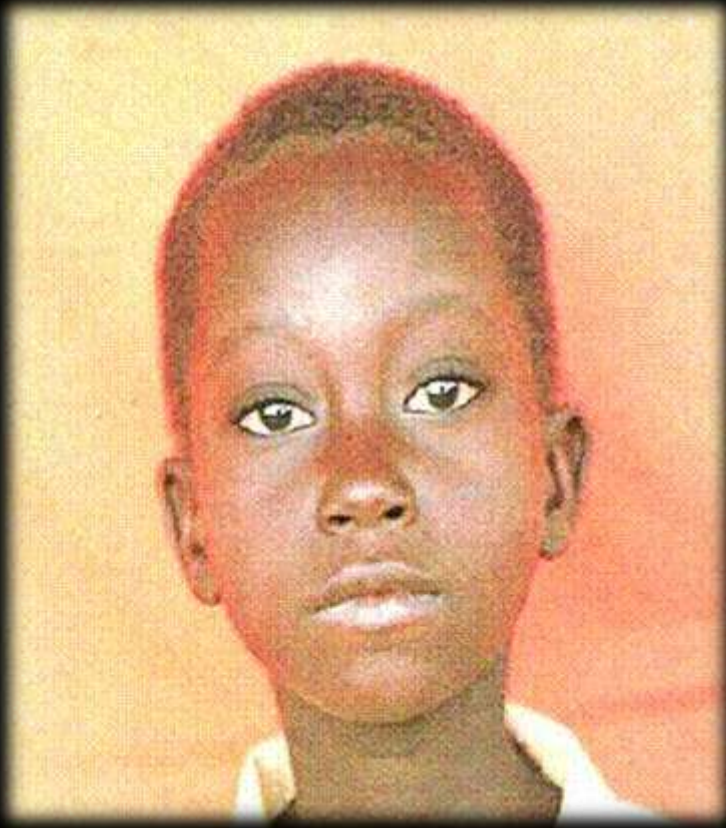
PRAISE HIM ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW

PRAISE HIM ABOVE YE HEAVENLY HOSTS

PRAISE FATHER, SON AND HOLY GHOST.



We are a thankful people.



We pause to remember
Our friend Affisu.

And we pause to remember
the 852 million people
of the world who will
Not eat this evening.

And we give thanks for each other:



LET'S EAT...

the Searching

Hear God's invitation
Hear God's call

*God wishes to be seen,
and He wishes to be sought,
and He wishes to be expected,
and He wishes to be trusted*

(Julian of Norwich).

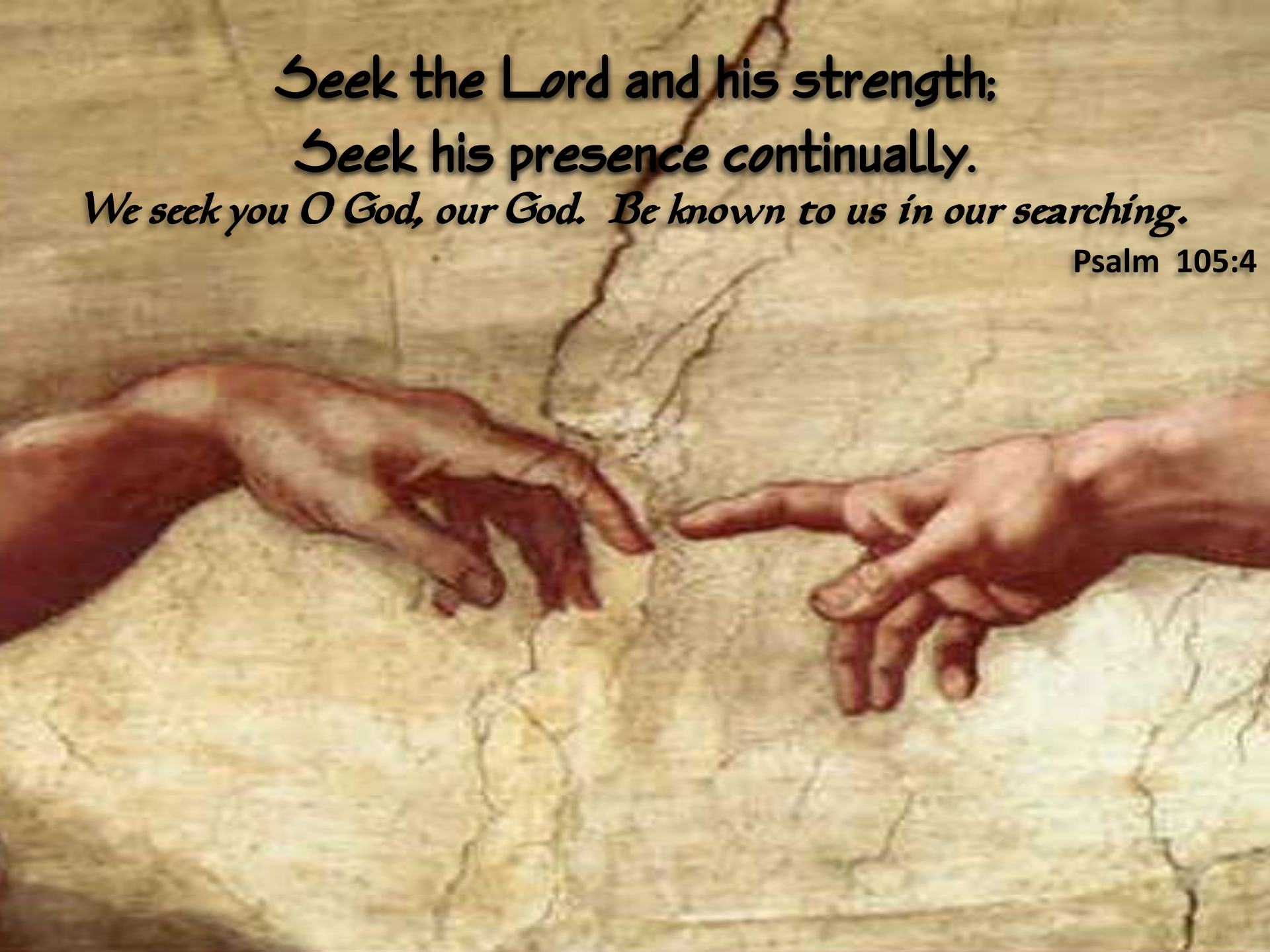


**Our liturgy, Our service to God,
Our work of God, Our Opus Dei**

*Seek the Lord and his strength;
Seek his presence continually.*

We seek you O God, our God. Be known to us in our searching.

Psalm 105:4



The Practice.





OPEN OUR EYES, O LORD

THAT WE MIGHT SEE YOUR FACE

OPEN OUR EARS O LORD

THAT WE MIGHT HEAR YOUR VOICE.

OPEN OUR MOUTHS O LORD

THAT WE MIGHT TELL OF YOUR KINGDOM

OPEN OUR MINDS O LORD

THAT WE MIGHT FIND YOUR WAY

OPEN OUR HEARTS O LORD

THAT WE MIGHT KNOW YOUR HEALING.

OPEN OUR LIVES O LORD

THAT WE MIGHT REVEAL YOUR GLORY



Are we Serious?

Are we really
Serious?

Do we really pray? Do we really mean?

Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth...

Americans make up 5% of the world but we
consume 50% of the world's resources.

Think about that.

David A. Livermore

The poorest 60% of the world's
population own only 6% of the world's
wealth, and the richest 20% own 85% of
the world's income.

Miguel A. De La Torre



Are we really

Serious?

*You are the generation
That has the power to
eradicate extreme poverty.*

Americans make up 5% of the world but we
consume 50% of the world's resources.

Think about that.

David A. Livermore

The poorest 60% of the world's
population own only 6% of the world's
wealth, and the richest 20% own 85% of
the world's income.

Miguel A. De La Torre

What then must change if we are to be serious about making poverty history?

What will you change?
How will you live?

Contrary to how we live:

We don't need what we have and we already have what we need

Seriously.

Lord You Have My Heart

A hand is shown in a dark blue, starry night sky, holding a glowing, multi-colored orb. The orb has a bright purple center with a red and blue aura. The background is a deep blue with many small white stars.

Lord you have my heart

And I will search for yours

Jesus take my life and lead me on.



**Lord you have my
heart**

**And I will search
for yours**

**Let me be to you a
sacrifice.**



**And I will praise you Lord
(echo)**

**And I will sing of love come down
(echo)**

**And as you show your face
(Show your face)**

We'll see your glory here.

Psalm 16

I say to God, "Be my Lord"
Without you nothing makes sense.

And these God-chosen lives all around
what splendid friends they make!

Don't just go shopping for a god.
Gods are not for sale.
My choice is you, God, first and only.
And now I find, I'm your choice!

The wise counsel God gives when I'm
awake is confirmed by my sleeping
heart. Day and night I'll stick with
God;

I've got a good thing going
and I'm not letting go.

I'm happy from the inside out
And from the inside in, I'm firmly
formed.

Now you've got my feet on the path of
LIFE, all radiant from the shining of
your face. Ever since you took my hand,
I'm on the right way.



The Practice: making it more than words we read.

SANCTUARY

A photograph of a church sanctuary. In the foreground, a wooden altar holds a large white vase filled with a bouquet of white flowers, including roses and daisies. To the right, a wooden chair with a patterned seat cushion is visible. In the background, a wooden bench with a decorative circular cutout is partially seen. The scene is lit with warm, golden light.

Lord prepare me
To be a sanctuary
Pure and Holy
Tried and true
With thanksgiving
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

A stone Celtic cross stands in the foreground, with a stone wall on the left and a coastal landscape in the background. The cross is made of dark stone and has intricate carvings. The wall is made of rough-hewn stones. In the background, there is a body of water, a town, and hills under a cloudy sky.

*As it was
in the
beginning
Is now
And will be
FOREVER MORE*





“Come let
us reason
together.”
says the
Lord.

*-through the
Prophet Isaiah
chapter 1:18*

The Bible.

- The map of God's reality.
- A compass to help us through this world.
- Not a code of behavior, a list of do's and don'ts.
- Helps us return to the created order.
- Points us to the way life was intended to be.
- The story contained within the scriptures help us to make sense of the story we live in today.
- The point isn't the story itself, the point is God and God's work in this world and in our lives.

Isn't this the carpenter? The son of Mary and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And aren't his sisters here with us?



The letter of James *the Just*, the brother of Jesus.
One of the three pillars of the early church.
The “Adelphotheos” in Greek.



About the Letter of James

- James was Bishop in Jerusalem
- Written to Jewish Christian house churches outside of Palestine
- James was martyred 62 AD
- We think the letter was written mid 40's
- Conflict with the world and conflict within the church
- Basic theme: living the faith versus knowing the faith.
- Doesn't have the format of an "epistle" but rather is a collection of wisdom sayings.



The Royal Rule of Love

¹⁻⁴My dear friends, don't let public opinion influence how you live out our glorious, Christ-originated faith. If a man enters your church wearing an expensive suit, and a street person wearing rags comes in right after him, and you say to the man in the suit, "Sit here, sir; this is the best seat in the house!" and either ignore the street person or say, "Better sit here in the back row," haven't you segregated God's children and proved that you are judges who can't be trusted? ⁵⁻⁷Listen, dear friends. Isn't it clear by now that God operates quite differently? He chose the world's down-and-out as the kingdom's first citizens, with full rights and privileges. This kingdom is promised to anyone who loves God. And here you are abusing these same citizens! Isn't it the high and mighty who exploit you, who use the courts to rob you blind? Aren't they the ones who scorn the new name—"Christian"—used in your baptisms?

⁸⁻¹¹You do well when you complete the Royal Rule of the Scriptures: "Love others as you love yourself." But if you play up to these so-called important people, you go against the Rule and stand convicted by it. You can't pick and choose in these things, specializing in keeping one or two things in God's law and ignoring others. The same God who said, "Don't commit adultery," also said, "Don't murder." If you don't commit adultery but go ahead and murder, do you think your non-adultery will cancel out your murder? No, you're a murderer, period.

¹²⁻¹³Talk and act like a person expecting to be judged by the Rule that sets us free. For if you refuse to act kindly, you can hardly expect to be treated kindly. Kind mercy wins over harsh judgment every time.

The Letter from James,

Chapter 2

Faith in Action

¹⁴⁻¹⁷Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, "Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you? Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense? ¹⁸I can already hear one of you agreeing by saying, "Sounds good. You take care of the faith department, I'll handle the works department."

Not so fast. You can no more show me your works apart from your faith than I can show you my faith apart from my works. Faith and works, works and faith, fit together hand in glove.

¹⁹⁻²⁰Do I hear you professing to believe in the one and only God, but then observe you complacently sitting back as if you had done something wonderful? That's just great. Demons do that, but what good does it do them?

From the letter of James, Chap 2, vs14-26

Use your heads! Do you suppose for a minute that you can cut faith and works in two and not end up with a corpse on your hands?

²¹⁻²⁴Wasn't our ancestor Abraham "made right with God by works" when he placed his son Isaac on the sacrificial altar? Isn't it obvious that faith and works are yoked partners, that faith expresses itself in works? That the works are "works of faith"? The full meaning of "believe" in the Scripture sentence, "Abraham believed God and was set right with God," includes his action. It's that mesh of believing and acting that got Abraham named "God's friend." Is it not evident that a person is made right with God not by a barren faith but by faith fruitful in works?

²⁵⁻²⁶The same with Rahab, the Jericho harlot. Wasn't her action in hiding God's spies and helping them escape—that seamless unity of believing and doing—what counted with God? The very moment you separate body and spirit, you end up with a corpse. Separate faith and works and you get the same thing: a corpse.



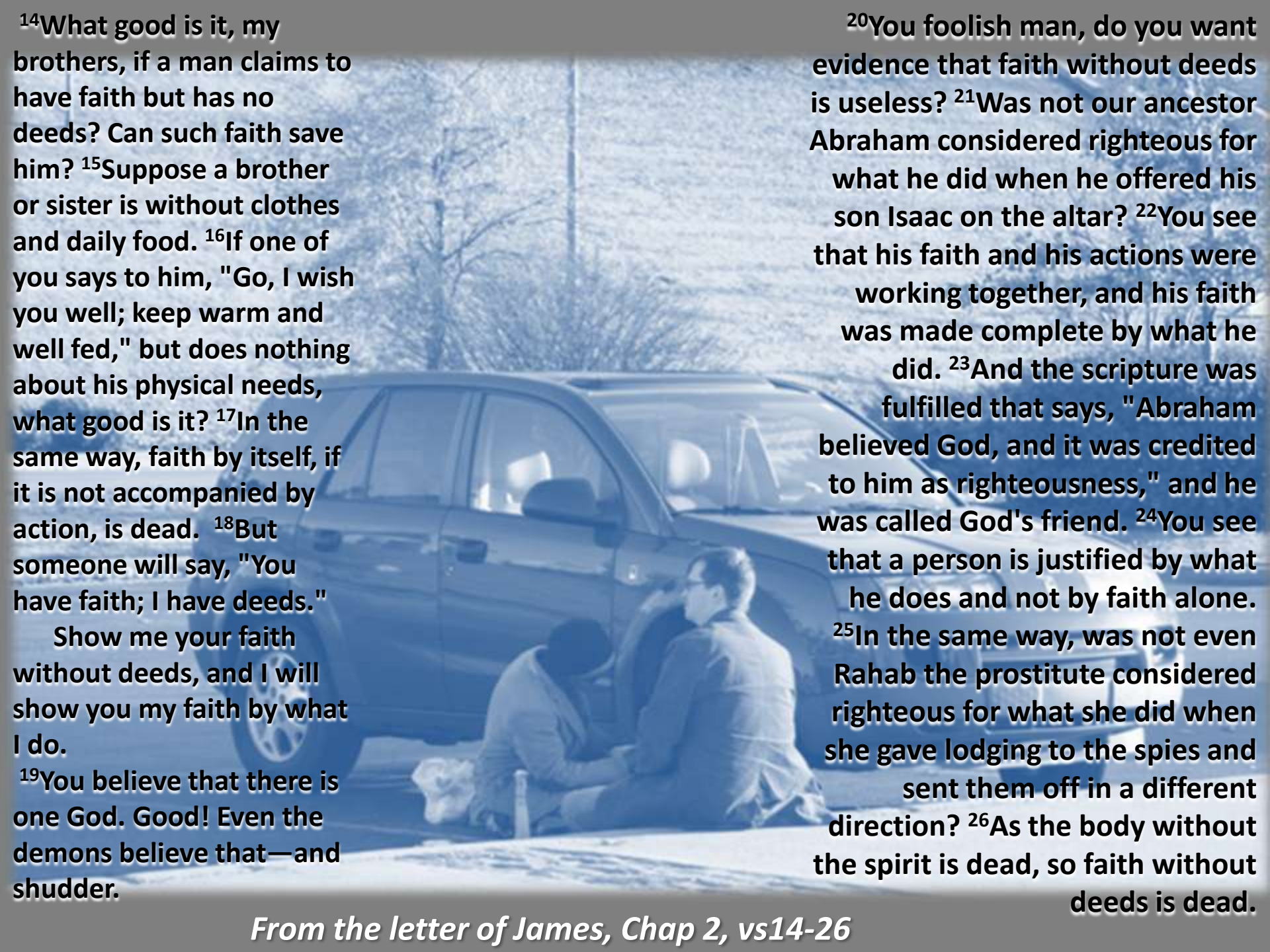
My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

**The Letter
from James,**

Chapter 2



¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? ¹⁵Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. ¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

¹⁹You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

²⁰You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? ²¹Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²²You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. ²⁴You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone. ²⁵In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? ²⁶As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

From the letter of James, Chap 2, vs14-26



A Practice:
Listening and Responding to God

CONVERSATIONS

Because *WE'RE IN THIS THING TOGETHER.*



**And we don't want to just talk about it but we want
*To work this out into the details of our everyday life.***

Benediction:

May you this week, enjoy the playground we've been given to live in through Jesus with God!

May you continue to work God into the details of your day so that you might not be just a believer of Jesus but a follower as well.

May you wrestle through the hard questions and thoughts instead of picking and choosing what is convenient.

And may you be the most serious ever in this last week of the famine season; making God's way on earth even more real and the playground bigger and bigger!

Go in peace .. And heal your world.

SHALOM



Peace Be Unto You