

## Living by Faith X: James

“Know Who You Are”

James 4: 11-17

*Going Beyond* the sermons into the Scripture preached by Pastor Peter Oh on October 15, 2017

### ***Entering In:***

*What would you say in one sentence to the question, “Who is God?”*

1. What is commanded in verse 11?

The Greek word that is translated “slander” (*katalaleō*) literally means, “to speak against”. What characteristics of slander do you see in the following verses?

- Numbers 21:5
- Psalm 101:5
- 1 Peter 2:12, 3:16

What characteristic of slander do all of these verses have in common?

Is James saying that we should never “speak against” (criticize) those things that are truly wrong? How do you know?

2. What other word is used in conjunction with *slander*?

What does this imply about what we are really doing when we speak against our brother?

Besides our brother, who else are we offending when we slander?

What does God’s family mean to you?

3. Why is God’s law given to us? (cf. James 2:12).

Explain how the purpose of the law is fulfilled in you.

What two things, regarding the law, do we do when we slander one another?

What does “judging the law” mean?

What makes *slander* a matter of *sitting in judgment* on the law?

4. Who is the only Lawgiver and Judge? (Isaiah 33:22, Revelation 20:11)

What is the Lawgiver able to do?

How does this affect your thinking about God?

When James says, “who are you to judge your neighbor?”, who are our neighbors?

What warning is also given in Romans 2:1 about judging.

5. Who is James addressing in verse 13?

What are the three presumptions, mentioned in verse 13, do some people make about life?

- A.
- B.
- C.

Based on verses 14-15, explain how each presumption is wrong.

6. What do you think when someone repeats “Lord Willing” (*deo volente*) regarding his/her future plans?

Are these “future plans” always wrong? What is it that would make them wrong?

7. In what ways can we “boast and brag”?

What does God think about these actions?

Knowing what we ought to do and not doing it is called a sin of \_\_\_\_\_.

What do we ought to do according to the Scripture? (cf. James 2:8; Luke 10:27; Deut. 6:5)

How might living in the perspective of “If the Lord wills” change how you would respond in one of the following situations?

- When your work/travel is interrupted by a crisis
- When a neighbor needs help, but your schedule is packed
- When an acquaintance asks you about your faith at an inconvenient time
- When money is needed for relief work, but you are saving money for a specific purpose

Write down your answer to the question, “who are you?”

“I am \_\_\_\_\_.”

After you studied this text, how would you answer James’ question, “What is your life?”

***Living It Out:***

*Take time to examine if you have omitted what you ought to do in the last week.  
Confess this to God and ask for His power to do the good you know you ought to do.*