

"The Pillar" Part 1 | cfParis

Sermon Summary

The sermon focuses on spiritual growth, transformation, and commitment to living out one's faith. Pastor Cory introduces a new series based on the Book of James, emphasizing wisdom, perseverance, and action in faith.

Key Themes:

1. **Belonging, Believing, and Becoming:**
 - Everyone is welcome at CF Paris.
 - The goal is to move from belonging to truly believing in Christ.
 - Beyond belief, the ultimate goal is becoming more like Jesus.
2. **The Role of a Disciple (Apprentice):**
 - Being a disciple means actively practicing faith, not just attending church.
 - A new Sunday school class, *Practicing the Way*, is designed to help members grow in faith.
3. **The Wisdom of James:**
 - James, the half-brother of Jesus, initially did not believe in Him.
 - After Jesus' resurrection, James became a key leader in the early church.
 - His teachings emphasize perseverance, faith in action, and true wisdom.
4. **Faith in Action:**
 - Faith without works is meaningless (James 1:22-25).
 - Believers should actively *live* as disciples, not just listen to sermons.
 - Transformation requires intentional daily practice—prayer, scripture, service, and community.
5. **Becoming "Pillars" of Faith:**
 - James was known as "The Pillar" due to his steadfastness.
 - Christians are called to be pillars—strong, enduring, and inspiring to others.
 - Living faith should be evident in how believers interact with the world.
6. **The Importance of Prayer & Action:**
 - James was known for his devotion to prayer, earning the nickname "Old Camel's Knees."
 - Spiritual growth requires both devotion to prayer and active engagement in God's work.
7. **Final Call to Action:**
 - Engage with scripture, particularly James 1, throughout the week.
 - Join the *Compass Class* or *Practicing the Way* to deepen your discipleship.
 - Live each day as an act of worship, reflecting Christ in all actions.

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Discussion Questions

Warm-Up (Icebreakers)

1. If you had to describe your spiritual journey in one word, what would it be and why?
2. Have you ever had a moment where your perspective on faith changed drastically? What happened?

Deeper Discussion Questions

3. The sermon emphasized moving from "belonging" to "believing" to "becoming." Which stage do you feel you're in, and what steps could help you move forward?
4. James was initially skeptical of Jesus but later became a leader in the church. Have you or someone you know experienced a similar journey of doubt before faith?
5. James mentioned that faith without action is meaningless. What are some ways you can actively live out your faith in daily life?
6. The idea of being a "pillar" in your community was a key theme. What qualities do you think a spiritual pillar should have? How can you embody those?
7. "If your Christian life only consists of a prayer followed by having to give up Sunday morning the rest of your life—that sucks." What do you think the speaker meant by this? How can we move beyond a routine faith and truly live out the gospel in our daily lives?
8. James emphasizes that faith must be accompanied by action. What are some small, practical ways we can ensure our faith is active and not just something we hear about on Sundays?
9. The sermon talked about James' transformation from skeptic to pillar of faith. What do you think contributed to this change, and how can we encourage similar growth in our own spiritual journeys?
10. The closing challenge was to "live like the gospel changes everything." What is one specific change you feel called to make in your life based on this message?

Please Encourage everyone to attend the Compass class or the Practicing the Way course. Those happen on a rolling basis - check the App or Website for details.