



JAMES

FAITH + ACTION

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Calvin and Hobbes

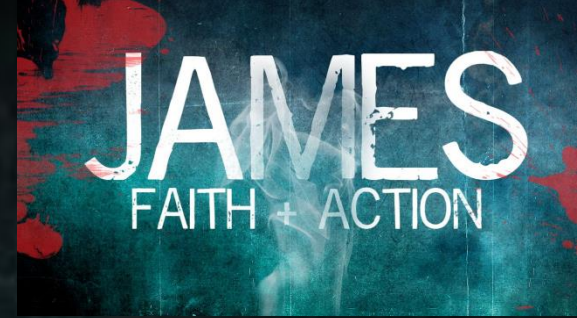
by WATSON

HOW COME WE PLAY WAR
AND NOT PEACE?



TOO FEW
ROLE MODELS.



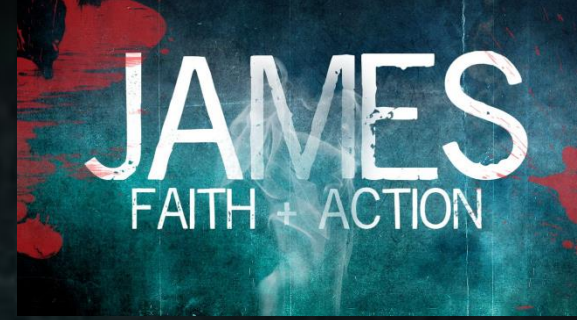


Hart said during the recent interview that he's been canceled "three of four times."

He was "never bothered" by it, though. "If you allow it to have an effect on you, it will."

"Personally? That's not how I operate. I understand people are human," he said.

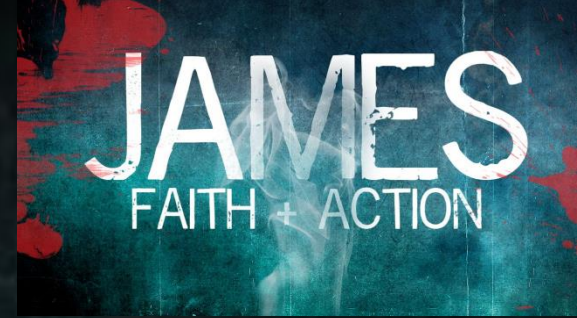
"Everyone can change," Hart continued. "It's like jail. People get locked up so they can be taught a lesson."



"When did we get to a point where life was supposed to be perfect?" he asked. "Where people were supposed to operate perfectly all the time? I don't understand."

Jonathan Dean
Sunday June 13 2021, 12.01am BST, The Sunday Times

James 3:2



We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

The church is full of untamed people. Why are we surprised when challenges to relationships happen?

Catch 22

I want to be in a perfect community

I'm not perfect

I Don't Belong Here

God created life as a means to bring about more life

Bitter envy, boastful, and selfish ambition

A Mind of immaturity

Earthly wisdom: unspiritual, demonic

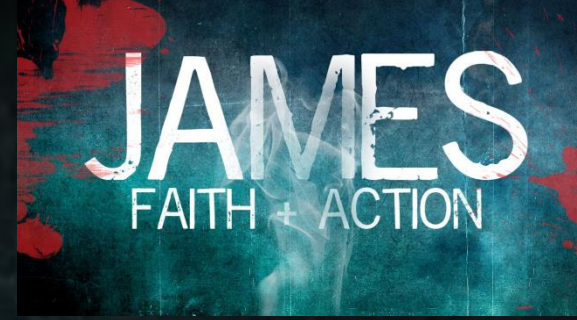
Simple distorted words can kill

James 3:5-6 MSG



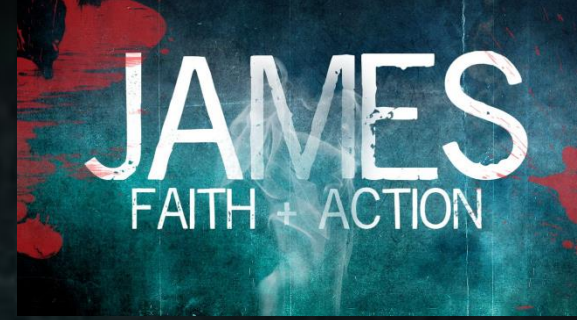
It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell.

Luke 6:43-49 MSG



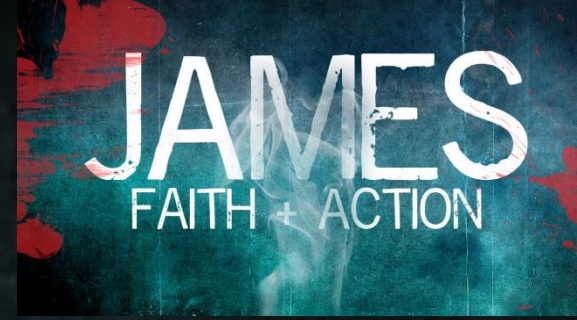
⁴³⁻⁴⁵ “You don’t get wormy apples off a healthy tree, nor good apples off a diseased tree. The health of the apple tells the health of the tree. You must begin with your own life-giving lives. It’s who you are, not what you say and do, that counts. Your true being brims over into true words and deeds.

Luke 6:43-49 MSG



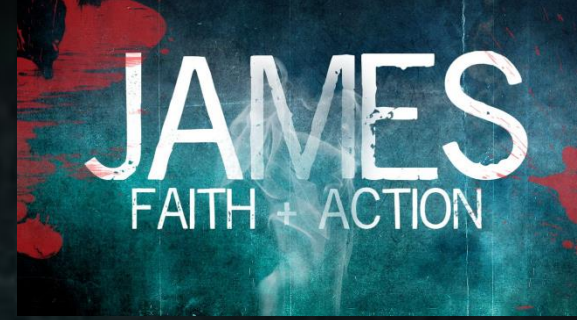
⁴⁶⁻⁴⁷ “Why are you so polite with me, always saying ‘Yes, sir,’ and ‘That’s right, sir,’ but never doing a thing I tell you? These words I speak to you are not mere additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundation words, words to build a life on.

Luke 6:43-49 MSG



⁴⁸⁻⁴⁹ “If you work the words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who dug deep and laid the foundation of his house on bedrock. When the river burst its banks and crashed against the house, nothing could shake it; it was built to last. But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don’t work them into your life, you are like a dumb carpenter who built a house but skipped the foundation. When the swollen river came crashing in, it collapsed like a house of cards. It was a total loss.”

1 Peter 3:8-12 MSG



Summing up: Be agreeable, be sympathetic, be loving, be compassionate, be humble. That goes for all of you, no exceptions. No retaliation. No sharp-tongued sarcasm. Instead, bless—that's your job, to bless. You'll be a blessing and also get a blessing.

1 Peter 3:8-12 MSG

Whoever wants to embrace life

and see the day fill up with good,

Here's what you do:

Say nothing evil or hurtful;

Snub evil and cultivate good;

run after peace for all you're worth.

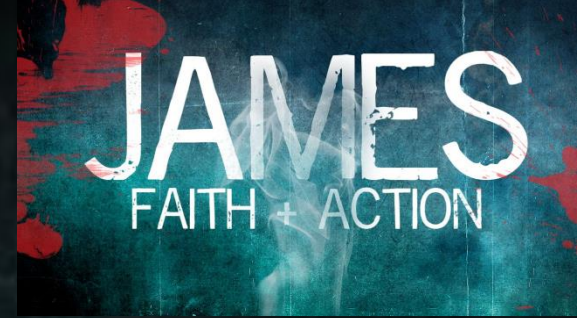
God looks on all this with approval,

listening and responding well to what he's asked;

But he turns his back

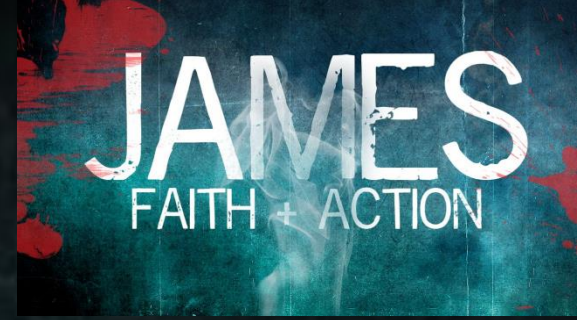
on those who do evil things.

James 3:17-18 MSG



Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor.

Matthew 16:24-26 MSG



Then Jesus went to work on his disciples. “Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You’re not in the driver’s seat; I am. Don’t run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I’ll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self. What kind of deal is it to get everything you want but lose yourself? What could you ever trade your soul for?”

So you want to be a disciple?

It is about following

It is about stumbling and following

It is about stumbling and following and sowing