

December 9: Read **Hebrews 11-13**, then Pray **Psalm 24**. A restatement of Hebrews 11:1 could be: FAITH is **seeing the world on God's terms** rather than ours. Consider this as you read the stories of all the people in this chapter and then include 12:1-2 in the thinking! We fix our eyes on Jesus! He is Mt. Zion!!! (12:22-24)

December 10: Available Video → [James](#). Read **James 1-3**, then Pray **Psalm 25**. James was Jesus' pragmatic half-brother (see Acts 15 for an example!). This letter is blunt, in your face and can make the reader feel like it's all up to us. But zoom in on 1:5-6, and 2:23-24. The key word in verse 24 is "alone". If faith is seeing the world on God's terms (which we saw in Hebrews 11!) then that reality necessitates—by definition—a response *by* us to what God has already done *for* us through Jesus. For Jesus indeed climbs down into the pit to rescue us, puts us on His back and climbs out, setting us down, cleaning us off and then says: "follow me". That moment, the moment of our response to that invitation, is what James is referring to here.

December 11: Read **James 4-5**, then Pray **Psalm 26**. James 4:3 is a source text for many a terrible sermon where the preacher shouts that we should only pray for certain things (essentially deleting passages like Matthew 7:7-11 and John 6:11-14 from the Bible). Zoom in on James 4:7 and go back and read it together with Ephesians 6:10-18, understanding that prayer is the act of engaging the evil one and all the forces of darkness *in battle* (see Daniel 10:10-14 for a reminder of how much is going on in "the heavenly realms" all while we are praying). When reading James 5:16 remember 1 John 1:8-9 and Romans 8.

December 12: Available Video → [1 Peter](#). Read **1 Peter 1-2**, then Pray **Psalm 27**. Write 1 Peter 2:9-10 upon your heart forever. This is who you are. This is what you do.

December 13: Read **1 Peter 3-5**, then Pray **Psalm 28**. 1 Peter 3:15 is a powerful reminder of our role in the world as we participate in the advance of Jesus' Kingdom, all while constantly doing 1 Peter 5:7, trusting in the truth of 1 Peter 5:10-11!

December 14: Available Video → [2 Peter](#). Read **2 Peter**, then Pray **Psalm 29**. Ponder 1 Peter 3:4-7. The notion of verse 4 is a powerful deception and is ever present in our culture as people construct origin stories (see Darwinian Evolution) which assume the world always was as it is now.

December 15: Available Video → [1-3 John](#). Read **1 John 1-2**, then Pray **Psalm 30**. Contrast 1 John 1:1 and 2:18. The truth about Jesus is always being denied by those who are against Him, of which there are many: see 1 John 2:22-23.