



Worship — May 17

Call to Worship

¹⁴ As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more. ¹⁵ My mouth will tell of your righteous deeds, of your saving acts all day long—though I know not how to relate them all. ¹⁶ I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, Sovereign Lord; I will proclaim your righteous deeds, yours alone.

— Psalm 71:14-16 (NIV)

Praise

Listen (or sing along): click the video link on the Fellowship website for *Great Things*

Read God's Word Together

¹⁹ Your righteousness, God, reaches to the heavens, you who have done great things. Who is like you, God?

²⁰ Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth you will again bring me up.

²¹ You will increase my honor and comfort me once more.

²² I will praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, my God; I will sing praise to you with the lyre, Holy One of Israel.

²³ My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you—I whom you have delivered.

²⁴ My tongue will tell of your righteous acts all day long.

— Psalm 71:19-24a (NIV)

Children's Message

Click the video link on the Fellowship website for *Children's Message*

Pray Together

(a prayer based on Psalm 146)

Praise the Lord! Our soul praises you, O Lord. We will sing praises to you as long as we live. We will not put our trust in our government or in influential people, for when they die, their influence and power are gone.

We are blessed because we hope and trust in you, our God who created the world and everything in it.

You were a faithful God to our spiritual fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and you remain unchanging and faithful to us in this century and on to the end of time.

You uphold those of us who are weighed down with the cares of this world, and you feed those who are hungry with the bread of life. You set prisoners free with the assurance that their sins are forgiven and that you are in control of the events of their lives. You give sight of understanding to those who are blind in their sin. You lift up those who are bowed down, and you love those who are righteous.

You watch over us strangers in a sinful world, and you are a father to the orphaned and a comforter to the widowed. You do not allow the plans of the wicked to flourish or to come to completion. You will reign forever and for all generations. Praise the Lord! Amen.

Message & Response of Praise

Click the video link on the Fellowship website for *FAITH*



TODAY: Is faith something we believe in our hearts, something we think in our heads, or something we do with our hands? James tells us in his letter to the churches that faith is all of these working together at the same time.

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, **faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.** 18 But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. 20 You foolish person, **do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?** 21 Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. 24 **You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.** 25 In 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? 26 **As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.** — James 2:14–26 (NIV)

FAITH

James 2:14-26

Structure

Verses 14-17

Verses 18-20

Verses 21-24

Verses 25-26

sola fide (faith alone)

Q62

Because the righteousness which can pass God’s judgment must be entirely perfect and must in every way measure up to the divine law. But even our best works in this life are imperfect and stained with sin.

Q63

This reward is not earned; it is a gift of grace.

Q64

It is impossible for those grafted into Christ through true faith not to produce fruits of gratitude.

