

A Faith That Works

Series: Faith That Works

October 25, 2015

INTRODUCTION

We are currently in a sermon series called “Faith That Works” on the book of James. In the message for today, we looked at the relationship between our faith and our works, and the importance of having the right perspective when it comes to these two things in our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever met anyone (a celebrity, politician or religious figure), who said one thing and yet their lives and actions didn't quite match up to what they said? Why do you think it's so important that we live what we preach?
2. Read James 2:14. What do you think James is really saying here? Is he saying that we should try to work or earn our way to salvation? What is the relationship between our faith and our works?
3. Read James 2:15-17. Describe in your own words the picture that James is painting here. How do these verses relate to our faith? Why do you think that James used this illustration?
4. Read James 2:18-19. We see two kinds of faith in these verses. How are they described? What does James compare the kind of faith that merely professes to believe in God? What does it say about this kind of faith?
5. Read James 2:20-26. What is the significance of these two Old Testament characters? How were they distinct, and what did they have in common?
6. In light of the message, what are some ways we can start to practically live out our faith and apply God's Word in our lives? How can we not only be blessed but be a blessing to our community, our city and the world?

CONCLUSION

It's said that the greatest distance in the world is the distance between our heads and our hearts – taking what we already know in our heads and turning it into actions. If we were to just live out what we've already heard and learned from the sermons and Bible studies we've attended over the years, it would be more than enough for us to take and live out for the rest of our lives. God is calling us to be doers of His Word and not simply listeners and learners. Prayerfully consider the ways that God may be calling you to start living out your faith, and let's start to close the gap between what we know and what we do.

“12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” – Philippians 2:12-13