



Is Your Faith Making You Act?

Text James 2:14-26
Sermon Text James 2:18, 19

Christians need living, active faith for trying times. There is a Christian congregation seemingly on every corner. There is a preacher and a religious dogma to meet the needs of any particular belief that one wishes to believe. Television has 24 hours programming teaching on every element of faith and belief, yet the world is being crushed by acts of hate and violence. In this morning's sermon we want to explore what the Apostle James teaches Christians "to do" who have faith. When someone claims to have faith, what he or she may have is intellectual assent-agreement with a set of Christian teachings-and as such it would be incomplete faith. True faith transforms our conduct as well as our thoughts. If our lives remain unchanged, we don't truly believe the truths that we claim to believe. James is not disputing the importance of faith. He is opposing the notion that saving faith can be a mere intellectual exercise void of a commitment to active obedience (Matt.7:16-18). James is challenging his readers to evaluate their faith and see whether it is alive or dead. James' point is not that a person is saved by works (he has already strongly and clearly asserted that salvation is a gracious gift from God; James1:17,18;Eph.2:8,9, but that there is a kind of apparent faith that is dead and does not save (vs. 14,17, 20,24,26; Matt. 3: 7,8; 5:16;7:21; 13:18-13; John 8:30,31; 15:6).

We cannot earn our salvation by serving and obeying God. But these actions show that our commitment to God is real. Acts of loving service are not a substitute for, but rather a verification of, our faith in Christ. Please remember that James is saying that true faith always results in a changed life and positive action. "Is Your Faith Making You Act?"

In James 2:18 the word is simply this - "you can have faith, but if you do not commit acts of positive works then your faith is useless." Believing in Jesus is not enough your faith in Jesus must result in a new you. The Bible says that if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you can move mountains—that's powerful action. Are you a born – again, Bible toting, faith filled Christian who performs "no" acts of kindness or mercy and yet claims to love the Lord? If Jesus Christ is the Lord of your life the world should see your good works (actions) and give God the praise. You can believe all day in Jesus--the demons believe; if your faith does not demonstrate acts of love then you are nothing more than a lot of loud noise (James 2:19; I Corinthians 13:1).

Starting right now, examine your level of faith and ask yourself "is my faith making me do something for Christ by serving others?" If the answer is my faith is Dead, then ask the Holy Spirit to guide your next steps and to bring your faith to life. Improve your faith and your entire life will change.

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