James / Faith that Works - Wk. 8
"Faith Proven by Works"
By Pastor Jody May 10/18/2026

[CALL TO HEAR]

James 2:14-26 ESV

Faith Without Works Is Dead

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have
works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and
lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed
and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is
that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.
18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith
apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe
that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! 20 Do you
want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?
21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son
Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and
faith was completed by his works; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says,
"Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he
was called a friend of God. 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not
by faith alone. 25 And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute
justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by
another way? 26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart
from works is dead.

Pastor – "People of God, this is the Word of God."
People – "Thanks be to God."

Pray

Illustration

Hebrews 11:1 ESV
11 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not
seen.

Walking around without worry because you already know what's going to happen. It is like going to bed expecting the refrigerator to be on in the

morning, the car will start up, and that the lights will turn on. Do we really know if these things will happen-no. But we live as if we do because of the number of times it has happened in the past. These are some of the most assured things that exist in our lives, those things that come from daily routines. And yet for the Christian our faith for the future, a life of/with/for Christ, is to be just as sure about tomorrow's regular occurrences not because we have experienced it so many times but based on the assuredness of who makes the promise.

Yet, I bet if I took a survey in this room and asked us to rate our faith from 1-10 that we would have a very diverse answer. That comes not from a lack of faith I think but rather a disparity of what is true faith, what does it look like, and how it works. There are some in here I think that would rank themselves high on the faith scale and yet would suffer from a lot of fear or anxiety over life. There would be those that would rate themselves low on the faith scale and yet have no problem sleeping at night. Faith is a hard thing to measure, the amount of it, and just saying you have it does not prove a thing.

I could say that I have faith the 0-5 Dolphins would make the Super Bowl, and you would call me crazy. But if I said I had faith that the 49ers would make it you would say I have come to my senses, now why is that? Because that comes from the knowledge of their record, their upcoming conference schedule, lack of injuries, and above all their production stats. In other words, you and I have faith they will make the Super Bowl, based on their works. Us simply having faith in them does not get them there, but what vindicates that belief is the work that is being produced by them at this current moment.

Introduction

That is how James this week is approaching faith. When he uses the word "justified" in v. 21 to claim that Abraham was justified by works **he does not mean it to say that Abraham was made righteous by the works he did**. He means that the works he did proved something about that faith. I don't want to spoil that part of the sermon yet, we get to that later, but I wanted to perhaps put some of our minds at ease here at the beginning by letting you

know that James and Paul both thought about faith in the same way. Let me show you that, by something you read on Thursday this week.

Ephesians 2:8-10 ESV
[8] For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, [9] **not a result of works**, so that no one may boast. [10] For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Paul makes the point that yes, we are saved by faith and by that means alone. BUT you see at the end there what is the purpose of giving a person that gift, FOR GOOD WORKS. Faith, if someone has really received that free gift from God, as an act of Grace, giving you something you don't deserve, THEN that person's life will produce works in accordance with a changed heart. The works as James says justifies the actions of the believer, it simply means one's actions justifies/validates/vindicates one's faith.

What's more, they both believe this way because it was what Jesus Himself believed to be true.

John 5:24 ESV
Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and **believes** him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment but has passed from death to life.

Jesus says those that believe πιστεύω (*pisteuō*). vb. **to believe, trust; entrust.** *Describes the act of believing or trusting something on the basis of its truthfulness and reliability.* That comes from the root word *pistis* (πίστις - faith/trust that Paul uses all the time. Those that put faith into what Jesus says will not go through judgment that leads to death but will go on to live with the Lord. The church taught Justification by faith from the very beginning because it was what our Lord has taught from the very beginning. So, let's settle this upfront so you are not left wondering if there is a contradiction here in the Bible while we are trying to lay out Jame's points

this morning.* And here is the main point you will have leaving here today, the summation of this passage.

MP

Genuine, saving faith is never stagnant; it is always demonstrated by a life of active, obedient love.

There are 4 different points we will cover today to help explain that. The 1st is that False Faith offers no service to man. 2nd that False Faith offers no obedience to God. 3rd True Faith is obedient to God. And lastly, True Faith offers service to man. So, we have two negative examples followed by two positive examples. That's how James laid it out and that's how we will preach it.

1. False Faith Offers no service for Man.

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have
works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and
lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed
and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is
that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

In this first section here, James is pointing back at vs. 2-7, in his correction over how the rich are treated, favoritism/sin or partiality, over the poor. He continues to use that example, the way that behavior is represented, to talk about the topic of faith. As we said earlier the church has been established with the belief, that Salvation comes through Faith in Jesus alone. What

* Both James and Paul believe Faith is God's foundational gift. (James 2:5; Eph. 2:8)
It is the common mark of all Christians. (James 2:1; Galatians 3:26)
It regulates the continuity of the Christian life (James 2:22; 1 Tim. 6:12)
It is the root from which good works grow. (James 2:22; Titus 3:8)
There are no doctrinal differences, James simply sees that works are a vindication of God doing something in the believer's life which causes them to produce fruit, of which Paul agrees. (see Romans 2:26,29.)
The believer keeps the law which vindicates that He has a new heart and according to Christian doctrine of the new covenant, that is because God has changed it for him. Both Paul here in Romans 2 and James 2 agree on this. What Paul speaks of in Galatians and other places in Romans is that one does not earn Salvation by one's works. Man has nothing to do with being saved it is the work of God alone (James 2:5; Eph. 2:8). Next week as a part of our Reformation Day activities we will preach on Sola Fide so we can be reminded just how exactly that works.

James wants to do is help define what that Faith should look like, and he starts out with the perception of a '*false faith*'.

Let's stop here for a moment and talk about James' audience of this initial letter. James is writing to a bunch of converted Jews, who probably at that time make up more of the numbers in the church of Jerusalem. That means these are folks who grew up with the knowledge of God, the Doctrine of sin, an OT view of election, and with the help of the HS converted to Christianity by accepting that Jesus WAS the Messiah. They would have had to accept that the Messiah was not political, not delivering them out of Rome's hands, but He was a spiritual Savior rescuing them for the bigger problem of spiritual death. The thing that most likely has not changed though, is the sense of entitlement, that a Jew had living for God in this world. In other words, they were most likely looking down on the poor in the church as it just represented God's favor or unrepentant sin in their lives. Another believer's physical welfare was not their concern, for God willed it to be that way, and the temptation to believe they were favored over another still lived in their hearts.

That's the view James is battling, that's what he is struggling against.

Just to compare apples and oranges, most of Paul's letters are written to Gentiles emphasizing to them not to get caught up in the belief they can add anything to their Salvation. In the Gentile world many of the old-world religions taught that your work added to a higher place in eternity, and that your worship of the gods gave them more power to affect change for you. Meaning that Paul's message about faith was naturally more focused on not letting them believe that their works contributed to Salvation. James' focus was to get his listeners to believe that their faith would show work and consideration for the common man. The ways in which they view faith and works comes from the two different audiences they were writing to. Once again there is no discrepancy, they both believe the same thing, but are writing to address two different concerns.

So, James asks straight up, if your faith does not portray the works of someone that should have a changed heart, then ***can that faith save you***?

15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is **dead**.

Then he brings it home to that debilitating problem we brought up last week, the treatment of the poor in the church. If someone can look at another believer and say, *"Go in peace, be warmed and filled,"* (16) when they see they have no outer tunic and are hungry, then what type of faith is that? Blessing a person verbally without thinking you may be the way that person is blessed, is no good, it is a dead FALSE FAITH. Jesus has already judged this type of behavior.

Matthew 25:35-40 ESV
35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

The Lord sees action directed towards the least of these as actions that declare what has been done unto you. Grace given by a member of the church comes from the realization of a Grace received from the hand of Christ. Those that visit with the hurting do so because Jesus visited them when they were hurting. When the hungry are fed it is because you have been filled by the spiritual food of Christ. When the tired are refreshed it is because God's people have realized they have been made to rest near the still waters of His presence, they have experienced the Lord as their shepherd. When the cold are warmed it is because the believer knows they were found by Christ naked and bloodied in this world. The shepherd takes care of others before Himself, and we His sheep, see to the care of others before we think of ourselves. To do otherwise is a false faith that does no service for man.

2. False Faith offers no obedience to God.

18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

That first statement in v. 18, *"You have faith and I have works."* is James recognizing that some people in the church see a categorization of faith. Some commentators believe this statement represents those people that claim that their spiritual gifting is faith, not the physical works.

Gal 5:22-23 ESV
22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, ***faithfulness***, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

You see some believe you don't need to see works if your gifting is faithfulness. That's how some people function today, they read the Bible every day, they consume a lot of religious media, the read lots of books, and believe they have been gifted with the gift of knowledge leading to faith. As a matter of fact, all of those things in Gal 5 you can just tell people you have, as a sign of you having faith in God, but never have to show them. An introverted person can experience all of those blessings and still though suffer from a false faith. Now why? Because of how James challenges that perception. *Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.* (18 – remember Jame's reputation in Jerusalem) Then to add to that challenge He shares his knowledge of 'demonology'.

19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! 20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

When Jesus confronts unclean spirits all the time during His earthly ministry what do we see? They recognize the Christ, the chosen one of God but that does not mean they have a faith that will save them.

- **The Synagogue in Capernaum (Mark 1:23–26; Luke 4:33–35):**

  - An evil spirit in the local synagogue cries out to Jesus, calling Him the *"Holy One of God"* and asking if He has come to destroy them. Jesus commands the spirit to be quiet and casts it out. [1, 2]
- **The Region of the Gerasenes / Gadarenes (Matthew 8:28–34; Mark 5:1–20; Luke 8:26–39):**
  - Across the Sea of Galilee in the territory of the Gerasenes or Gadarenes, demon-possessed men living among the tombs approach Jesus. The demons cry out, asking what they have to do with the *"Son of God"* or the *"Son of the Most High God,"* and beg not to be tormented before their time. [1, 2, 3, 4]
- **Various Towns and Public Gatherings throughout Galilee (Mark 3:11; Luke 4:40–41):**
  - Mark notes that whenever unclean spirits saw Jesus, they fell down before Him and shouted, *"You are the Son of God!"* Luke similarly records that demons came out of many people, shouting, *"You are the Christ, the Son of God!"* [1, 2]

James is equating a faith that lacks actions towards others is actually a faith that is disobedient, it's the same theology of demons. You understand the commands to love one another but **you reject them in rebellion**. Demons are content with their faith just the way it is. The believe all the same things about God that we do, He is all powerful, He made them, and Jesus is bringer of judgment. The difference is they know the truth that without the forgiveness of God, they are condemned. Please note too, that the demons had no care for their fellow man, much like the people who were favoring a useless faith with no show of obedience. There might not be much difference in false faith stances for those that believe they never have to live that faith out with others. False faith offers no obedience to God, it just uses its' knowledge of God to evade sacrifice, confession, and accountability just like a demon...

3. True Faith is Obedient to God.

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son
Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and

faith was completed by his works; [23] and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God. [24] You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

Now this is the section that the tension rises up a little in this passage. That is if you take this passage out of context, away from its audience, and away from the point it's trying to convey.

Simply put but Paul says, *"For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law."* – **Rom 3:28**
And James says, *"Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?"* – **James 2:21**
Well, let's talk a little about the scenario in which he was referencing.

First, before Abraham ever took a step on that journey towards Moriah, there was another important event that took place that affects even us.

Genesis 15:4-6 ESV
[4] And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." [5] And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." [6] And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Abraham 30-40 years prior to the offering up of Isaac had been made righteous by God, in layman's terms he got saved. And how did that happen? Well, according to the Apostle Paul you read last week:

Galatians 3:5-6 ESV
[5] Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— [6] just as Abraham "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"?

Abraham was saved by faith alone, before he had any children whatsoever. He trusted that God would do all that he said in Gen 15 – making him a father of

many nations and that through an offspring in Gen 17, who we know would be the Lord Jesus Christ.

So, decades later Abraham sets out with Isaac, his only son after being commanded to take him and put him up as an offering, now look at how he addressed those traveling with him.

Genesis 22:5-8 ESV
5 Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; **I and the boy** will go over there and worship and come again to you." 6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. 7 And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" 8 Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together…

Abraham in this scene is exercising his faith. He tells the young men the boy and I will both return, and even on his journey up the trail he tells Isaac God will provide the substitutionary offering. The author of Hebrews sheds further light on this event.

Hebrews 11:17-19 ESV
17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, 18 of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." 19 He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

Abraham was not saved by his works he was saved many years early by his faith (Gen 15), but his faith was justified/vindicated/validated by the actions. Not only that family what he does in that trial, is that God is vindicated in front of the world forever that He will always provide for His people the sacrifice that spares us death.

22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed
by his works; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed
God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend
of God. 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

Those works that Abraham produced from an active faith, they showed the extent to how far down his faith had to go. The father of our faith lineage had been given the task to show us how to trust God, to show us the value in God's promises, to show us the grace in God's provision, to show us the depth of God's love, to show us the seriousness of God's commands, and to show us the riches of His rewards. True Faith is always, in the end, obedient to God, and validates not only the profession of faith a believer claims, but the claims of God that He gives His people, the outcome of a deeper and fuller faith.

Right now, many of us family are at a crossroads. Many of you do have saving faith, God said it, you believed it, and it was counted to you as righteousness. And through years of your own sojourning, you have made mistakes like Abraham, and you have also encountered the blessings of God like Abraham. But always ahead of us is the call to *trust the Lord God with all your heart and lean not on your own understandings but in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make those paths, straight*. (Prov. 3:5-6). There are days ahead for some of us where he calls us to put on the altar of our lives all the things we have put hope in. Those places in our lives that show abundance God says finally to you, give that to me and trust. Today you may be looking at job changes but what is that to a God that saves, you may be looking at letting go of relationships that are unhealthy but what is that to a God who saves, you may be looking at walking a path of life that you have been accustomed to for years, what is that to a God who saves!

Beloved brothers and sisters, let go of your haunts, let go of your past, let go of your sin, and practice the True Faith that is obedient to God.

4. True Faith offers service to Man.

25 And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works
when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? 26 For

as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

Ok well who is Rahab?

Joshua 2:1-2 ESV
2 And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there.

Ok now what were those works that validated her faith?

4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she said, "True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from.

She hid the spies of Israel from her own people, now why would this traitorous woman do such a thing?

9 and said to the men, "I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you.
12 Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a sure sign
13 that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death." **14** And the men said to her, "Our life for yours even to death!
18 Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down,

She first hid these men from a faith that God gave her about what would happen. The fear of God had gone before Him, and she knew what would happen so her faith came with the ability to serve others. It did not matter her station in life, nor her prior allegiances, her faith compelled her to act for those that shared the same faith. You see faith in the Lord God family should do the same for us. So many times, we cry we can't do anything for someone else because of prior loyalties, or views of our own low self-esteem, or that

we lack power to make real changes in other's lives. True Faith pushes past all of that and serves the servants of God! True Faith believes more in the power of God and His ability to do things than in the capabilities of the servant. Have we not seen the strength of God in the testimony of His most faithful servant our Lord Jesus Christ? Family I beseech you throw away your doubts about what your works can accomplish, for your work's power is not set in your ability but rests in the one who reigns, who has done it all.

Well, what happened to Rahab?

6:25 But Rahab the prostitute and her father's household and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

Rahab (Mat 1:5) marries Salmon and they have Boaz, who marries Ruth who are the great grandparents of David.

True faith is a faith God uses in service to His people, all men actually, because the life of the truly faithful is a testimony to the world of how God saves, redeems, and rewards the faithful. Beloved family I pray that you have seen the truth in these examples today:

MP

Genuine, saving faith is never stagnant; it is always demonstrated by a life of active, obedient love.

[CALL TO OBEY]

1. Take an Audit of Private Faith

Evaluate the "1-10 scale" of your faith not by your feelings or theological knowledge, but by your active obedience to Christ's commands in the mundane. Does your faith actually cost you anything? If your daily routine contains no moments of sacrifice for a brother or sister, your faith is currently stagnant. Identify one specific person within the church this week who is 'poorly clothed or lacking in daily food'—whether spiritually or

physically—and take a concrete action to provide what is needed. Faith that never leaves your seat is a faith that has not left your heart.

2. Move Towards the (Abrahamic) Altar of Surrender

Like Abraham, every believer is called to a moment of total surrender where they must place their most cherished security upon the altar. Identify the 'Isaac' of your life—the job, the relationship, the comfort, or the societal status you are clutching too tightly. Acknowledge that this security is an idol if it hinders your obedience to God. Resolve to trust in the Lord's provision rather than your own understanding. True faith is validated when we walk toward the trial believing that God is able to provide, even if it requires the death of our own plans.

3. Put Out the Scarlet Cord of Bold Witness

Rahab risked her life and her standing among her own people to serve the messengers of God because she truly believed in the victory of the Lord. In a world that is at enmity with God, are you displaying the 'scarlet cord' of your faith publicly? Consider if your allegiances to secular comfort or social acceptance are preventing you from serving the body of Christ. True faith is never private; it is a public declaration that you have changed sides. Identify how you can actively protect, provide for, or serve the church this week, even if it feels counter-cultural or inconvenient to your personal life.

Prayer

O Lord our God, the Creator and Sustainer of all things, we come before You with hearts humbled by Your Word. We thank You for the gift of faith, which You have ignited within us by Your sovereign grace. We confess that we have too often been content with a dead faith—a faith that speaks, but does not serve; a faith that knows, but does not obey. Father, forgive us for our coldness toward the needs of our brothers and sisters. Grant us the courage of Abraham, that we might place our most cherished idols upon the altar of Your will, trusting entirely in Your provision. Give us the boldness of Rahab, that we may act decisively for Your Kingdom, regardless of the cost or the opinions of a world at enmity with You. We pray that our lives would not be

stagnant, but rather a constant, overflowing testimony of Your transformative power. May our works be the natural fruit of a heart that has been truly purchased by the blood of Christ. Let our homes be centers of worship, where faith is not merely discussed, but lived out in diligent service and sacrificial love. We commit this week to You; may every action we take validate the truth we profess.

And blessed Lord we pray for those in this room, those who will hear this sermon, and those who are our neighbors that have not received this gift of faith yet that you would be so gracious to them as you were to us, as you were to Abraham and Rahab. Show them their need for you, their need for forgiveness of sins, their need to be saved, their need to be loved, and their need to be led by the King of Kings. Call on the name of Jesus friends in faith, and He will rescue you.

In the name of Jesus the Lord of Glory, Amen.

[COMMUNION]

Corinthians 11:23-26 ESV
23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord
Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had
given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this
in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper,
saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you
drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink
the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

When we partake of the bread today remember the life of Jesus lived perfect for us, He who practiced the truest faith we have ever seen. When God called for His trust in all things, Jesus gave that. When God called Him to leave behind family, friends and earthly future He left it all. When God led Him up the mount of Calvary, He went willingly bound to His burden of wood. All things done to show that faith produces a true obedience that we could not give. All praise His works of righteousness that brought us justification by faith.

When we partake of the juice, we remember the blood of the New Covenant—On Calvary there was no rescue for our Lord for that ram from the thicket in the days of Abraham pointed to the day where His offspring would bring in the worship of the nations. By the sacrifice provided by God, our sins were atoned for, our wrongs were swept away, and the taint of sin was removed. All praise God for the provision of atonement to bring us all back from the dead.

[CONFESSION OF FAITH]

*** The Congregation will stand and recites:**
Elder – "Christians, what do you believe?"

LBCF 1689 Chapter 11 Of Justification Paragraph 2 Justification Is by Faith Alone

Faith that receives and rests upon Christ and his righteousness is the only means of justification. 6 At the same time, faith is never alone, but is always accompanied by every other saving grace. Faith is never dead, but rather, it works through love. 7

6. Romans 3:28
7. Galatians 5:6, James 2:17, 22, 26

[OFFERING+LAST SONG]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, who grants us the gift of faith to complete the good works He has already prepared for us to do.

Go in the name of the Son, that lives out true faith perfectly, rewarding us with His right standing with God.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that equips us with the ability to perform works that validate our faith, and calls people to follow a faithful God.

[FELLOWSHIP CONVERSATIONS]

1. **The Trap of Stagnancy:** In the sermon, we discussed how faith is like the reliable routines of daily life, yet many confuse having 'knowledge about God' with 'active trust in God.' How have you personally wrestled with the temptation to be a passive consumer of religious information rather than an active doer of the Word?

2. **Serving the Household of God:** James 2:15-16 gives a stark example of refusing to help a brother in need. Looking at our own church body, are there areas where we have become comfortable in our own blessings while ignoring the practical burdens of others? How can we be more observant of those around us this week?

3. **The Demon's Theology:** We learned that even demons have a correct intellectual understanding of who God is. How does it change your perspective to realize that knowing 'the right things' about Jesus is not the same as the saving faith that produces fruit? What does a 'working faith' look like in your current season of life?

4. **The Altar of Sacrifice:** Abraham's faith was validated when he was willing to sacrifice his most precious gift—Isaac—back to the Giver. What is one area of your life or one specific possession that you are currently struggling to surrender to the Lord's sovereignty? How does remembering God's past faithfulness help us in the current trial?

5. **The Witness of Rahab:** Rahab risked her position and safety to hide the spies because she believed God was the true King of the land. In what ways does our modern culture pressure us to hide our faith, and how can we be more like Rahab in publicly choosing loyalty to God's people over the approval of the world?

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