



inside out

A SERMON SERIES IN THE BOOK OF JAMES

MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 7 – FAITH IN ACTION

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?

¹⁵Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶If 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? ¹⁷In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

¹⁸But 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. ¹⁹You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

²⁰You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? ²¹Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²²You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. ²⁴You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

²⁵In 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?

²⁶As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

– James 2:14-26 (NIV)

GENUINE FAITH IS AN ACTIVE FAITH

- Believing the right _____ God is not equivalent to having _____ God
- _____ faith produces life _____
- Genuine faith serves to _____ (_____) and _____ (_____) our standing before God

GENUINE FAITH FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE	GENUINE FAITH FROM MAN'S PERSPECTIVE
<p style="text-align: center;">We are</p> <p>_____ right</p> <p>with God by _____</p> <p>alone through _____</p> <p>alone in _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">alone</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">We</p> <p>_____</p> <p>that we are right with God</p> <p>through an _____</p> <p>_____ that is</p> <p>_____</p>

DIGGING DEEPER:

1. Why do we struggle to trust someone who doesn't back up what they say with their actions?
2. If faith cannot be seen, then how can it be demonstrated?
3. What is the difference between believing facts about God and genuinely trusting in God?
4. How was Abraham's faith "made complete" when he offered his son Isaac as a sacrifice?
5. How was Rahab's faith "made complete" when she gave lodging to the Hebrew spies?
6. What does the following statement mean: *We are not saved by works, but a saving faith is a working faith?*
7. If we are saved by faith and not good works, then what is the role of good works in the life of a Christian?
8. How can an active, working faith serve to personally assure us that we have a right relationship with God?
9. How can an active, working faith serve to publicly demonstrate to others that we are in a right relationship with God?
10. What are some ways that you have seen God's work in your own life?
11. What are some areas of your life where there is still work to be done?