

JAMES - THE ART OF FAITHFUL LIVING

WEEK 5: REAL FAITH REALLY WORKS

JASON BRINKER - 10/6/24

GROWING TOGETHER *(ANSWER ALL OR JUST SOME OF THE ICE-BREAKERS)*

- Have you ever been on the receiving end of counterfeit money, fake jewelry, or knock-off clothing brands and didn't know until later?
- What's something that you know is good for you but have a hard time actually doing? What usually gets in the way?
- Christian song-writer Rich Mullins wrote this lyric concerning faith, "It's about as useless as a screen door on a submarine". What's something in your life that would fall apart or wouldn't work if you didn't put in any effort?

GROWING WITH GOD *(ANSWER ALL OR JUST SOME OF THE QUESTIONS)*

THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA: Real faith isn't just about saying the right words, expressing certain feelings, or contemplating thoughts; it's about showing up in living faithfully for Jesus.

Read [James 2:14-26](#), [Ephesians 2:8-10](#), [2 Corinthians 13:5](#), & [1 John 5:13](#) aloud and go over your sermon notes with one another. (Answer all or some of the questions)

Many people in our country claim to have faith, but James challenges us to go deeper. He wants us to understand that real faith isn't just about what we say—it's about how we live. While Paul teaches that we're saved by grace through faith, James reminds us that genuine faith will naturally produce good works in our lives.

- **What areas in your life do you feel God is calling you to act, so your faith isn't just something you say but something you do?**
- **How would you explain both Paul and James' teachings to someone who is struggling to understand and find a balance between the two?**

James urges us to examine the evidence of our faith in Jesus. Like Pastor Jason illustrated, just as you can tell if someone has been hit by a train or has the flu, a true follower of Christ will show signs of a changed life. If the Resurrected King lives in us, it will be evident in how we live, love, and serve others. Claiming faith without actions doesn't count. Genuine faith goes beyond words and feelings; it reflects a life transformed by love that inspires action.

- **What are signs of a Gospel-inspired life that you observe in yourself or others?**
- **How do these reflect the way you live and interact with those around you?**

James makes it clear that true faith is more than just belief; it must be reflected in our actions and how we treat others. He warns against a faith that exists only in our minds without making an impact on our lives. If our faith doesn't lead us to love and serve those around us, it's not the real thing. James challenges us to evaluate the authenticity of our faith by examining how it shows up in our daily lives.

- **Recall a recent time when your faith inspired you to act. What was the outcome and how did it affect those involved?**
- **What are some specific ways we can actively seek out opportunities to serve others in our community? What barriers do you face when trying to act on your faith?**

The sermon reminds us that real faith is shown through our actions and faithfulness to Jesus. If we truly believe in Jesus, our lives should reflect that belief through our actions, surrender, and trust in Him. James encourages us to examine our lives and ask ourselves if our faith is genuine or a performance.

- **Reflect on a time when you struggled to fully surrender to Jesus despite your belief. How did that experience shape your understanding of faith?**
- **What stands in the way of fully trusting Him with every part of our lives, and how can we live out a faith that is active and reflects our awe of who Jesus is?**

GROWING IN SCRIPTURE AND OBEDIENCE

Here are a few insights Pastor Jason gave us to reflect on.

- Real faith isn't just something you say. (reference - James 2:14)
- Real faith isn't just something you feel. (reference - James 2:15-16)
- Real faith isn't just something you think. (reference - James 2:18-19)
- Real faith shows up in faithfulness to Jesus. (reference - 2 Corinthians 13:5)

GROWING IN OBEDIENCE

Pastor Jason ended this weekend's service by calling anyone who hasn't accepted Jesus to be the Lord of their life, to do so. If someone is feeling the Holy Spirit stirring in their heart and they are being convicted to follow Jesus, lead them to salvation with the Sinner's Prayer. While this prayer is not in the Bible, slight variations of it are commonly used to lead someone to salvation through Jesus Christ.

Dear Heavenly Father, I know that I am a sinner and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe Jesus died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and I repent from my sins. I invite you to come into my heart and my life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Savior. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Demonstrate Real Faith (James 2:17-19)

Consider this question, "How am I demonstrating my faith through my actions?" This week, find a practical way to serve someone in need or contribute to your community. Let your actions speak volumes about your faith in Jesus.

Life Group Leader: Create a space for your Life Group to discuss what real faith looks like in action. Share examples from your own life to encourage openness. You might also suggest a service project for the group to participate in together.

Trust in Jesus, Not Just Believe (James 2:19)

It's easy to say we believe in God, but true faith involves surrender and trust. Ask yourself, "Am I truly trusting Jesus with my life?" This week, identify an area where you struggle to surrender control to God. Pray about it and take a step toward trusting Him more deeply.

Life Group Leader: Foster an environment where Life Group members can share their struggles with trust and control. You could facilitate a prayer time specifically focusing on these areas, encouraging members to lean on each other for support.

Reflect on your walk with Jesus (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Self-reflection is vital in our faith walk. Ask, yourself, "Am I genuinely following Jesus?" This week, take time for personal reflection and possibly journaling. Identify changes in your life that point to your faith in Christ and celebrate those transformations.

Life Group Leader: Challenge your Life Group to engage in self-reflection this week. Consider providing journaling prompts or discussion questions to guide them in identifying and sharing their spiritual growth. Check in with them next week to celebrate their insights and progress.

GROWING IN PRAISE AND WORSHIP

This week's song list if you'd like to worship with your group

[This Is Our God](#)

[One Thing Remains](#)

[Another One](#)

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