

# **BELIEVE #4 – EASTER SERIES**

## **James 2:14-24; Hebrews 11:1,6**

**04/24/2022**  
**Sunday a.m.**

### **SLIDE 1 – COVER SLIDE**

### **SLIDE 2 – BELIEVE – Easter series – focus on significance/power of believing in Christ**

- Week 1
  - Believe in Christ = the work God requires of us – **John 6:28,29**
  - Signs
    - They ask for signs in order to believe...right after signs - feeding 5000, raises people to life
    - Jesus - “Y’all are here for free bread, not b/c of response to signs”
      - Believe and you won’t need that bread
      - Following Christ for personal benefits/what they get vs. He’s the Christ
    - Seeing isn’t believing. Believing is seeing. - e.g. ears to hear; eyes to see
- Week 2
  - Jesus says next step - to remain in His word, **grow** as a **disciple**, and make disciples of others - **John 8:31-32**
  - If you just believe and don’t hold on or put in to practice, you don’t get the benefits of freedom
- Week3
  - Belief —> Life - **John 20:31**
  - This is for everyone - **John 3:16**
  - Repent and believe - a turning away - **Mark 1:15**

### **SLIDE 3 – Hebrews 11:1**

### **SLIDE 4 – BELIEVE – FAITH IT**

- FAITH = CONFIDENCE in what we TRUST for; EVIDENCE/PROOF what we don’t SEE
  - “Seeing isn’t believing. Believing is seeing.”
- Connection in original language btwn believe & faith
- **Hebrews 11:1** – faith is....
  - Greek – G4100 – Pisteuo/Pist YOU oh – believe
  - Greek – G4102 – Pistis – faith
- BELIEVE – then FAITH IT - turn faith into a verb, belief into action
- Actions that follow decisions to take Christ at His word;
  - to trust, to believe into
  - Invitation to believe in Christ – as the source of LIFE for God’s people
- Faith Hall of Fame - “by faith ‘X’...” - actions
  - Abel offered...Enoch was taken...Noah constructed...Abraham OBEYED... Abraham went...Sarah received...Abraham offered...Isaac invoked...Jacob blessed...Moses was hidden...people crossed the Red Sea...walls of Jericho fell

### **SLIDE 5 – PUTTING BELIEF INTO PRACTICE**

- Written by James - Jesus' half-brother
- First rejected Jesus as Messiah, but later believed
- Key leader in Jerusalem church
- Written to dispersed Jewish believers
- Persecution under Herod Agrippa I
- Practical instruction (to be put into "practice"/action) for godly behavior and obedience to the Word
- Coming off of v. 12 - "so speak AND so ACT as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty"

### **SLIDES 6-9 – James 2:14-19**

- v. 18
  - Seems to agree with James?
  - attempting to separate the two
  - But he says there cannot be faith without works - neither can save on their own
- v. 19
  - reference to the Shema - central prayer of Judaism - daily in both morning and evening prayer
    - more of an "intellectual belief" rather than a "life commitment" - becomes routine
  - At least demons are wise enough to know that it warrants something more - shudder - an action

### **SLIDE 10 – LAZY FAITH**

- Watering down the meaning of the word "believe"
- Faith w/o action is just an idea - "well wishes"
  - Friend that says "we should hang out," but never acts
- v. 17 - It's empty - can't save you, can't save anyone else, certainly can't help bring about God's will
- v. 18 - Challenge - "you've got faith without works? Okay, show me...prove it" OR if you are Gen. Z - "BET"
- You can't prove your side to me? Okay, are you ready for me to prove my point to you?

### **SLIDES 11-14 – James 2:20-24, 26**

#### **SLIDE 15 – (PRO)ACTIVE FAITH**

- took massive faith (belief/assurance/confidence) to place Isaac on the alter
- v. 21-22 - "was justified" is passive and *'ek* in v. 22 is the instrumental use, meaning Abraham did not justify himself by works, but that his works were an instrument by which God justified him
- v. 22 - Completed = shown, proven, evident
- v. 23 - okay, but now it just says he "believed"
  - Ties a demonstration of faith through works to belief
  - That's because James knows believing implies acting!
- v. 26

- In Gen. 2:7, God breathed life into man, so as James says, a body without breath is dead (lifeless).
- Body w/o spirit is biblical definition of death
- In the same way, faith without works is dead. It is lifeless and useless, unable to do anything, no longer what God created it
- Acting out of faith (assurance of things hoped for; conviction of things not yet seen) before the thing is realized

### SLIDE 16 – HEBREWS 11:6

### SLIDE 17 - ESSENTIAL FAITH

- Belief into faith compels you to draw near to God
- James 2:24 - “you see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone”
  - this is where people have issues
  - Gal 2 - Paul - when living "by faith" it is "no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me”
    - Not what I can do *for* God, but what He can do *through* me
    - It is by Christ’s work through us that we are justified
  - Isaiah 64:4 - “all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment”
    - Abraham could not justify himself by righteous acts because his righteous acts are filthy
    - Through faith, he had to allow God to act through him in order that he could be made right
- The word required of us is to believe (John 6:29), the other “works” follows as a result

### SLIDE 18 – WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH THIS?

- What do we take away as the ‘point’? Life application?
- What does it look like, lived out – to **BY FAITH**, allow Christ to work **THROUGH** you?
- What do you do w/“Whatever you do, word/deed, do it in the Name of Christ?”
- Works can be a check for faith, but more so, the motivation behind the works is a check for one's faith
  - Are our works a self-motivated attempt to make ourselves look holy, or are they works of obedience to a God whom we love?
  - The first - Paul’s description of works that cannot justify – works that are an attempt to “boast” (Eph. 2:9, ESV)
  - The second - what James describes – products of faith and devotion to God
- Faith apart from works is unproductive; works apart from faith are filthy. Only by the two in tandem can God work through people to produce righteous works and justify believers
- Prayer for HS to fill/refill us w/HS power – what we need for today