

06/06/21 Message

Part of Say What

June 5, 2021

****Message: What to do when... Faith Doesn't Work**

Series: Say What

Recap: This is our sixth message in our **Say What** series. It's a series based around the fact we have questions and God has answers! Everyone is encouraged to submit their questions - about their faith, about God, theology, life... and we'll explore answers from a Godly point of view using the Bible. All questions may not be answered in the series, but everyone who submits questions will receive personal responses. Submit questions using the APP or online at www.fellowship.cc/saywhat

Introduction

- First Message: What to Do When You Feel Like Quitting
- Second Message: How to Handle Relationship Conflicts
- Third Message: It's His Fault... Whose Fault Is It
- Fourth Message: What to do when... The Heat is On
- Fifth Message: What to do when... Wrong Seems Right
- Today's Message: What to do when... Faith Doesn't Work

We're in the book of James

- New Testament Book (15th book after Acts, but Chronologically it was just after Acts)

- James was Jesus' half-brother

What do you do when you're calling but Jesus isn't answering? What about when you're in the heat of the battle but God seems nowhere in sight? Do your prayers sometimes seem to stop at the ceiling? What do you do when your faith doesn't seem to work?

Words of Wisdom from James

James 2:14-26 (NLT)

14 What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone?

15 Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, 16 and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?

17 So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

18 Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds."

19 You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.

20 How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless?

21 Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?

22 You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete.

23 And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." He was even called the friend of God.

24 So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone.

25 Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road.

26 Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.

Big Question of the Day

- Is your WORKS a key deciding factor of whether or not you will make it to heaven

- Faith is KEY to the Christian life
 - the sinner is saved by faith (Ephesians 2:8-9)
 - the believer must walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7)
 - without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6)
 - whatever we do apart from faith is sin (Romans 14:23)

Three Types of Faith

- DEAD faith (James 2:14-17)
 - Read Galatians 5:6
 - Read 1 John 3:17-18
 - If it's in your head, you THINK about it but if it's in your heart, you DO it
- DEMONIC faith (James 2:18-19)
 - Read Luke 8:31
 - Read Mark 5:10
- DYNAMIC faith (James 2:20-26)
 - The mind UNDERSTANDS the truth
 - The heart DESIRES the truth
 - The will ACTS upon the truth

Summary

James tells the story of two people in the Bible that followed God through faith with their hearts! They put feet to their faith and did something about it.

- Abraham
- Rahab

- Read 2 Corinthians 13:5
- Read Psalm 139:23-24

Two things keep your prayers from reaching heaven... two things keep your "faith" from working:

- Do I have unconfessed/unforgiven sin in my life?
- Do I have dynamic faith in Jesus Christ?