

How Faith Works - Revised Small Group Study Guide

Lesson Summary (Points 1-10)

Faith works through God's covenant love, not religious performance. God's love initiates salvation, roots believers in confidence, casts out fear, produces compassion, inspires obedience, strengthens love for the family of God, gives meaning to spiritual gifts, protects us from dead works, renews our minds with love-centered thinking, and expresses God's agape nature through the Holy Spirit. The believer's response is to remain rooted in God's love so faith can be expressed in every area of life.

Objective

Understand that biblical faith operates through God's love and learn how to restore love consciousness through repentance, recovery, and replacement.

Repent

Change your mind from striving to trusting God's covenant love.

Scriptures: Revelation 2:4–5; 1 John 4:10; Romans 5:5

Discussion Questions

Biblical Insight:

How do these passages reveal that repentance is more than turning from sin—it is returning to God's love as the foundation of faith?

Biblical Exposition:

How do Revelation 2:4–5, 1 John 4:10, and Romans 5:5 together demonstrate that God's love initiates, empowers, and sustains genuine repentance rather than human effort?

Life Application:

What specific step can you take this week to trust God's love instead of striving to earn His acceptance?

Recover

Return to the joy and confidence of your first love.

Scriptures: Psalm 51:12; Joel 2:25; Jude 21

Discussion Questions

Biblical Insight:

What do these Scriptures teach about God's desire and ability to restore what has been lost in your relationship with Him?

Biblical Exposition:

What common themes of restoration, preservation, and renewed fellowship with God are found across these passages, and what do they reveal about God's character?

Life Application:

What spiritual habit can you practice this week to intentionally remain in the love of God?

Replace

Remove competing loves and seek Christ first.

Scriptures: Mark 4:19; 1 John 2:15–16; Matthew 6:33; Colossians 3:5

Discussion Questions**Biblical Insight:**

According to these passages, what competing desires or distractions most often hinder faith from working through love?

Biblical Exposition:

How do these passages distinguish between wholehearted devotion to God and the competing loves of the world, and what biblical principles guide believers in establishing proper priorities?

Life Application:

What practical change can you make this week to put Christ first and remove a distraction that competes for your heart?

Scripture References

- Gal. 5:5–6
- Rev. 2:4–5
- 1 John 4:10
- Rom. 5:5
- Ps. 51:12
- Joel 2:25
- Jude 21
- Mark 4:19

- 1 John 2:15–16
- Matt. 6:33
- Col. 3:5