Is Your Faith Alive or Dead?

November 1, 2026
Bible Passage: James 2:14-20

Fighter Memory Verse
NOVEMBER
Romans 15:13
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

PERSECUTED CHURCH SUNDAY: A THEOLOGY OF SUFFERING

- Above martyrdom is a sovereign God who said there is an appointed number of martyrs (Revelation 6:11).
- Martyrs for Christ play a special role in shutting the mouth of Satan, who constantly says that the people of God serve him only because life goes better. That's the point of Job 1:9–11.

Big Idea: One is only saved by faith alone but if you have been "born again" and new life through Jesus, your faith will not be alone.

#1- Is My Faith Just _____? (v. 14-17)

- An _____ claim cannot save (v. 14)
  - James is dealing with a person who is all talk and no walk.
  - James wants us to _____ our lives to see whether we are truly in the faith.
  - Don't miss the point: **Anyone can "say" that "I'm a Christian," but saying "I'm a Christian" is not the same as being a Christian, a true child of God.**

#2- Is My Faith Just in a doctrine that I _____? (v. 18-20)

- _____ faith is more than believing a doctrine.
- Faith that has no works (evidence or proof) in your life is a demonic faith and is a dead faith.
  - Demonic faith involves (_____, _____)
  - Christian/saving faith involves (_____, _____)
- Saving faith has a mind that believes and a will that has been changed toward Jesus Christ & _____.

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TRUTH INTO ACTION

- It is possible to say, "I have faith" and be wrong. **Does your life give evidence of saving faith or demon-like faith?**
- There are only two types of faith. Is your faith alive or dead? **Faith that is alive functions differently toward Jesus Christ, sin and others.**



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily for Jesus. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk -- Please take the time this week to work through it in your community group or around your own kitchen table.

Warm Up: Discuss the phrase "talk is cheap." What does that mean?

Read James 2:14-26 Look for the main theme to be repeated three times: (17, 20,26)

1. (James 2:14-16) Why does James say faith without works is dead? How does his example of empty words to the needy make this clear? See also 1 John 3:17–18.

2. Does James teach that we are saved by works? How does James' emphasis on fruit and validation of faith fit together with Paul's teaching that salvation is by grace through faith alone? See also Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:8; John 15:8.

3. Do demons have correct doctrine or theology? (Do they have accurate knowledge of God?). Why is good theology important, and why is it not enough all by itself?

4. Discuss the following statement made in the sermon: *The "faith" of demons is useless, even though they tremble at what they know to be true. People who say they "believe" in God while showing no evidence of faith have a level of "belief" similar to that of demons.*

5. Explanation of repentance & faith (gotquestions.org)

- Repentance involves recognizing that you have thought wrongly in the past and determining to think rightly in the future. The repentant person has "second thoughts" about the mindset he formerly embraced. There is a change of disposition and a new way of thinking about God, about sin, about holiness, and about doing God's will. True repentance is prompted by "godly sorrow," and it "leads to salvation" (2 Corinthians 7:10).
- Repentance and faith can be understood as two sides of the same coin. It is impossible to place your faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior without first changing your mind about your sin and about who Jesus is and what He has done. Whether it is repentance from willful rejection or repentance from ignorance or disinterest, it is a change of mind. Biblical repentance, in relation to salvation, is changing your mind from rejection of Christ to faith in Christ.
- Repentance is not a work we do to earn salvation. No one can repent and come to God unless God pulls that person to Himself (John 6:44). Repentance is something God gives—it is only possible because of His grace (Acts 5:31; 11:18). No one can repent unless God grants repentance. All of salvation, including repentance and faith, is a result of God drawing us, opening our eyes, and changing our hearts. God's longsuffering leads us to repentance (2 Peter 3:9), as does His kindness (Romans 2:4).

5. Does your failure or lack of consistent obedience ever cause you to doubt whether God has saved you and whether you really do love God? Why or why not?

6. What practices or habits help you keep your faith alive and growing instead of stagnant?

Prayer: Father, help me examine my life to see if it reveals demonic-like-faith or faith-that-saves. Help me take that next step for Jesus. Amen!