

LOOKING AHEAD

Week 4: James 2:14-19

1. How would you define Biblical faith to an unbeliever?
2. If even mature Christians sin, how can we hope to meet James's standard in this passage?
3. Why is it so easy to blur the line between doing a good work as a means to salvation and doing a good work as evidence of salvation?
4. What council would you give a friend who believes the teachings of scripture but has no spiritual fruit in their life?
5. What council would you give to another believer who has evidence of genuine faith but who never feels like he or she measures up to God standard?
6. Read Hebrews 11:6. What is necessary to please God?
7. As we see throughout the letter, one of the key "works" that James expects followers of Jesus to do is to care for the poor. What are ways that you are carrying or could begin to care for the poor (ie the marginalized, those in need, suffering, etc...) in our community?
8. If God ultimately produces spiritual fruit in our lives, what role do we play in pursuing greater maturity in the faith?
9. What does James say is the relationship between faith and works? (v.18)
10. Can you think of some outstanding Christians that impact the world today? What makes them so significant?
11. If you were a third world country and you had to show your faith without the use of words, what would you do to make an impact upon the culture you were living in? What impact can those same efforts making our culture?