



# WEDNESDAY EVENING

## AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

**Title:** What Kind of Faith Do You Have?

**Passage:** James 2:14-26

**Speaker:** Pastor Dan Preston

**Introduction:** Across our nation, countless people claim to believe in God, but belief alone is not the issue — the real question is whether that belief changes the way we live. Surveys and studies reveal a troubling gap between profession and practice, between what people say with their lips and how they live with their lives. We live in a culture where faith is often reduced to a label rather than a lifestyle, where God’s Word is treated as suggestion rather than command, and where morality crumbles even while church membership rolls remain full. But the Bible makes it clear: real faith cannot be hidden. True faith will show itself in obedience, in holiness, in a transformed life. And so tonight, we must ask the question James asked long ago: What kind of faith do you have?

### I. **Real Faith is More Than Just an Intellectual Acceptance** (Verses 14-17)

*“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.” (Psalm 14:1)*

#### A. Faith Without Works is Unprofitable

A profession of faith that makes no difference in how we live is worthless. It cannot profit the one in need, and it cannot profit the one making the claim.

#### B. Faith Without Works is Hypocritical



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*“The people who least live their creed are the people who shout the loudest about them. The paralysis which affects the arm does not interfere with the tongue.” — Alexander MacLaren*

### C. Faith Without Works is Dead

*“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)*

Real faith is not just head knowledge—it is heart transformation. It shows up in works of love, obedience, and compassion. If your faith has never changed you, James says you need to ask if it has ever saved you.

## **II. Real Faith is More Than Just an Emotional Experience (Verses 18-19)**

### A. Emotion Can Be Real but Empty

The devils tremble. Their emotions are genuine—but they are unchanged. Emotion without transformation is not salvation. Even though emotions may be sincere, but they are not proof of saving faith.

*“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 7:21)*

### B. Faith is More Than Acknowledging Facts

Saving faith is not just believing about Christ but believing on Christ—resting your whole weight on Him.

### C. Saving Faith Submits to Christ

Real faith is not just believing the right facts or feeling the right emotions—it is a full surrender that produces obedience.

## **III. Real Faith Produces Changes (Verses 20-26)**



**WEDNESDAY EVENING**  
AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

A. Real Faith is Grounded in God's Word

*"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."  
(Romans 10:17)*

If your faith rests on feelings, traditions, or family heritage, it won't stand. But when faith is rooted in Scripture, it produces fruit.

B. Real Faith Engages the Whole Person

Faith is not just intellectual assent, nor just emotional stirring—it engages the mind, heart, and will.

Real faith moves from knowing, to trusting, to acting.

C. Real Faith Produces Visible Obedience

If no one around you can see evidence of your faith in your actions, how do you know it's real? Real faith always leaves footprints.

D. Real Faith is Proven in Costly Choices

Faith is tested and displayed when obedience costs us something. Abraham risked the loss of his beloved son. Rahab risked her life by siding against her own city.

E. Real Faith is Alive, Not Dead

Faith without action is like a corpse—outwardly shaped like life, but inwardly without breath. Real faith breathes, moves, and lives.

**Conclusion:** So tonight, the question still stands: What kind of faith do you have? Is it a faith of the mind alone, filled with knowledge yet empty of power? Is it a faith of the heart alone, stirred in moments yet unwilling to bow in surrender? Or is it a faith that truly transforms — a faith that shows itself in obedience,



## **WEDNESDAY EVENING**

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in service, in love? Remember, a faith that does not change you will not save you. But a living faith in Christ will never leave you as you were — it will raise you up as a new creation.



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