



MESSAGE THEME: A faith that is alive is a faith that acts.

...faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

—James 2:17

The Greek word **‘ergon’** means act, work, or good deed. (Titus 1:16, Matthew 5:16)

Ephesians 2:8-10

- » We are saved by grace
- » Through faith
- » For good works.

Here are some self-reflective questions to motivate us to put faith into action:

- » When was the last time I acted in a way that only made sense because of my faith in Jesus?
- » Am I living more out of convenience or conviction?
- » What does the pattern of my life say about the health of my faith?
- » Does my faith ever require me to sacrifice time, energy, or resources?
- » Would those close to me see examples of my faith in the way I forgive, love, talk, and serve?

“Faith alone saves, but a faith that saves is never alone.”

—Martin Luther

NOTES: _____

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Gathering today at 4:30 PM

Fall Fest on Oct. 12 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM

Senior Adults: Tour the Ohio Statehouse on Oct. 16

Download our WChurch app or scan the QR code for more info or to sign up!



STUDY QUESTIONS

GETTING STARTED:

Share a time when someone did something practical for you out of love, big or small. What difference did that make in your life?

Why do you think actions carry so much more weight than words alone?

A DEEPER DIVE:

Read James 2:14-26.

- What tension do you feel in this passage?
- Reflect on verses 15-17. Where do you see a tendency in yourself to “say” the right things but not “do” them?
 - How do you respond to verse 17 when James wrote, “faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead”? What does dead faith look like?
- James wrote that even demons believe in God. What’s the difference between believing facts about God and having genuine saving faith? How can this challenge us in a culture where many people use words as evidence of faith?
 - Read Matthew 7:21-23. How do Jesus’ words reinforce James’s warning?
- Reflect on James’s use of Abraham and Rahab. How did they demonstrate faith in action? Why do you think James chose these two as an illustration of faith among the many he could have chosen from in the Old Testament?
- What does James mean when he compares faith without works to a body without the spirit? How does this analogy help us understand the relationship between faith and deeds?

Read Ephesians 2:8-10.

- What’s the partnership between grace, faith, and good works?
 - Where do you feel God is “preparing good works” for you to do?

THIS WEEK’S APPLICATION:

A faith that is alive is a faith that acts.

What part of this passage was most convicting, and in what ways does this challenge you to live out your faith?