



## **Application & Conclusion:**

From the two biblical examples that James provides, we learn that the ultimate “work of faith” is our unwillingness to hold nothing back from God and to hold nothing back from those in need.

Perhaps there is no better example of that than James’ own brother, Jesus Christ. Certainly, He believed in God. He believed that the sin of the world opposed God’s holiness. He believed that “the wages of sin is death” (rf. Romans 6:23), meaning someone had to die for the sins that we had committed against God – and he knew that “someone” was Him.

For a moment, in the Garden of Gethsemane, it appeared that even Jesus’ faith was shaken. The One who said “let not your hearts be troubled” was deeply troubled, asking if there might be any other way. But Jesus followed up on His faith in God with a great work of obedience, “obedience to the point of death, even death on a cross” (rf. Philippians 2:8). The final justification of Christ was demonstrated in His resurrection and will one day be displayed before the whole world when “every knee will bow, and every tongue [confesses] that Jesus Christ is Lord.”

The Apostle Paul says that Christ putting His faith into work on the cross, “leads to justification and life for all men” (rf. Romans 5:18), that is, all who believe. But what will become of your belief and trust in Jesus’ death and resurrection? Will your faith be confirmed through fruitfulness and obedience? Is your faith strong enough that you are actually willing to surrender *everything* for the glory of God and good of your neighbor?

## **Reflection Questions:**

**1. What does this teach me about God?**

**2. What does this teach me about me?**

**3. How do I apply this to my life?**