

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOUR FAITH IS REAL?

James 2.14-26

FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD

James is hoping to drive home the truth that just because we *say* we are believers, does not mean that we actually *are* believers. Something must substantiate this claim, because even demons believe, and it does nothing for them.

“Justified” Defined: When speaking of our initial gift of salvation, we often define “justified” as “Just as if I’d never done it.” But also it means you are credited as “just as if I’d always obeyed.” But James is coming from a slightly different perspective, using the more general definition of “justified,” which is “proven as right.”

James 2.21-25 // Romans 3.23-28

**We are saved by faith alone,
but the faith that saves is never alone.**

-John Calvin

SHOWING THE EVIDENCE

Matthew 7.12-27 // 2 Corinthians 13.5

This is quite possibly one of the scariest texts in the bible. These people genuinely believed they were saved. These people genuinely had some type of external “fruit.” These were not believers who “lost” their salvation, but Jesus “never” knew them.

Christianity without discipleship is Christianity without Christ.

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

How do you know if you are really a believer? There will be a **consistent and long term growing and change** of both inward fruit and outward fruit, as well as a continuing diminishing of inward bad fruit, and outward bad fruit.

DON’T BE FOOLED

James says frequently, “don’t be deceived.” We have all sinned, we’ve all broken God’s Law, and we all stand guilty. But if we act as if “we’re fine,” or are fooled into thinking, “I’m good with God,” we may stand before Him and hear those dreadful words, “I never knew you.”

Believers: Your words and actions are revealing something broken in your faith that only the Gospel can fix.

Non-Believers (and “Make Believers”): Your actions and words are showing you a deeper problem, one that God has the ability and desire to fix.

NOTES:

This Week’s Scripture to Memorize:

Colossians 3:1-2

¹If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION!

We’d love for you to **fill out a Connection Card** so we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have. You can drop it in the offering basket during the service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside. Feel free to grab some coffee and snacks in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you’ll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?

In our children’s ministry, which we call **Kids on Mission**, we have classes for **newborns-5th grade**, along with a great team of volunteers who have all been screened with background checks for extra security. Each week your child will get to **worship** with their class, followed by an **age-appropriate lesson** that points them towards Jesus and helps root them in the Word of God.

Visit our website to read more about the vision of Kids on Mission and a walk-through of our curriculum. If you have any questions, email **Katie McGinty at Katie@lifemission.tv**

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Our **6th-8th graders** begin each Sunday by **worshipping with the adults** and then head to their class with their teacher and classmates for the rest of the service. Visit our website to read more about our Junior High Ministry and a walk-through of our curriculum.

Our **9th-12th graders** stay in the service with the adults because we believe that it is crucial for them to not “graduate the faith” when they graduate high school. Our **wid-week High School Ministry meets on Thursday Nights @7PM**, here at Classical Academy in the Study Hall. For more info or questions about our student ministries, email **Casey Barnes at Casey@lifemission.tv**.

Contact Us

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before your group starts, is there anyone who can share the **Memory Verse**?

Read through **James 2:14-26**. What struck you the most from these verses or the message on Sunday? _____

Read through **Romans 3:23-28**. Now read through **James 2:24**. What were the differences Pastor Jobey mentioned between the recipients of Paul's letter and James' letter and what each of the recipients wrongly believed concerning salvation? From these passages, what is each author trying to communicate and prove concerning faith and works and how they fit into salvation? _____

Read through **Titus 3:3-8**. What do these verses have to say about our present standing before God and the role of faith and good works working together? In your daily life, in what ways do you seek to atone for your own sin and add to the perfect work Christ has already accomplished on your behalf? Are you more prone to think you must maintain your salvation by good works alone or by a knowledge of and belief in God alone? Why? _____

Read through **Matthew 7:12-27**. What is the dangerous reality presented in these verses? Then read **Acts 4:11-12** and **2 Corinthians 13:5**. From these passages, we see that Jesus must always be central to the inward and outward fruit we bear. Apart from Him we can do nothing as **John 15** states. What are some tangible ways we can begin to walk in our identity as heirs with Christ fully dependent upon His grace and the presence of the Holy Spirit? How can our devotion to God be a consistent overflowing of Christ-centered thankfulness rather than our own means of self-atonement and self-sufficiency? _____

The Pharisees had a faith that was characterized solely by their intellect and knowledge of God as displayed by their outward acts of righteousness. The demons had a faith that was driven also by a knowledge of God evidenced by their emotional responses to Jesus' presence. Read **Luke 10:25-28**. The kind of faith and good works that should set the believer apart from these two involves the whole person. They involve the mind, a knowledge of God's Word, the heart, a desire for His Word, and the soul and strength, the will to act upon the Word. Read **2 Peter 1:3-8**. What means have already been given to us in order that we may pursue and obtain this manner of faith and good works? _____

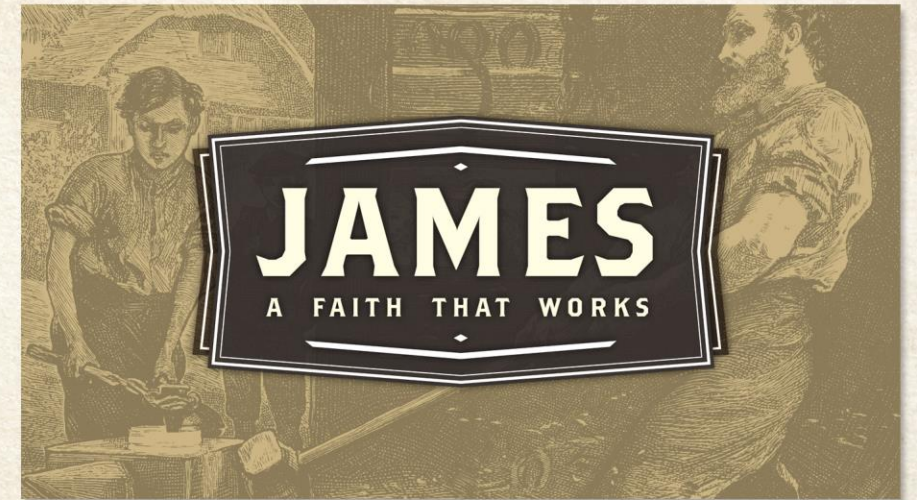
Read **2 Corinthians 5:14-15**. What is the only fitting response the love of Christ leaves us with? _____

As you close in prayer, pray through the words of **Psalms 139:23-24**: "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!" Ask God that by the power of the Holy Spirit, you would depend on His grace alone for salvation and He would continue to build up your faith through His unfailing Word and unfailing presence with you as you walk along the narrow road.



LIFE MISSION
C H U R C H

**MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY,
WHO ARE SAVED, EQUIPPED, AND SENT BY THE GOSPEL.**



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James 2.14-26 // July 23, 2017

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US ONLINE

LIFEMISSIONCHURCH.COM

