

So we're going through James...a quick hitting letter James, the brother of Jesus writes to churches who are spread out because of persecution. **So he writes to them to really just help them in their new walk with Christ.**

BIG QUESTION: What happens when faith in Christ meets life in general? **FAITH WORKS – WE DO.**

The book or letter is made up of these one liner statements...there is a pattern but it's broad **sometimes you read one thing and then the next statement seems to go in a different direction.**

But the big thought is this....What should happen when your faith in Christ meets life in general. James deals with what it looks like to have Faith in Christ as you live in this world.

When you think about trials, temptation, when you think about religion, practice...when you think about how we treat people...just over and over the big topic is simple to see...**what happens when FAITH and LIFE collide?**

TONIGHT is really the staple of the whole book...it's where James gets the most press really.

Tonight is basically the JOHN 3:16 of the book of James. **FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD.** (sounds negative right?) That's kind of the tone of James...like it's easy to feel bad after reading it...convicted.

Another way to say it is **OUR MAIN IDEAD or FOCUS: True Faith in Christ produces Real works in life.**

James helps us see that tonight in two big ways...all coming in the form of one big question- **v.14**

Basically he asks...can you simply believe in Jesus without producing Jesus fruit?

Can faith without works or proof or substance or validation save someone? Is that real Faith?

This could be a problem for us...it could sound like he's saying belief in Jesus needs something else.

Is he saying that? His answer in the rest of the verses answers that....so let read it. **(READ 14-26)**

1. Faith without Works is no Faith at all – (vv.15-17)

Can the faith of one person fill the belly of another? That's the point.

You can't simply have concern for a person...though that's good....but concern without action is strange.

James says, just like this...our faith, without works, is just a pipe dream, it's dead (v.17)

Dead here means unable to save...unproven...not complete.... it doesn't exist. It's DEAD

So really quick we see what James means in v. 14 is this....if you truly have faith, you'll surely have works. (hand in hand) Faith without Works is no Faith at all.

2. Faith is revealed by our Works – (vv. 18-19)

But....he supposes someone may have something to say about that....(v.18) You have faith, I have works.

Let's compare and contrast. **(BRING STUDENTS ON STAGE)**

James responds by saying this....SHOW ME YOUR FAITH, APART FROM WORKS. How do you do even do that?

The only way to show or prove or reveal your faith is through tangible things...WORKS. WORKS REVEAL FAITH.

Then you have V.19 – The demons have a belief in God.....just not Faith in God....

the difference between belief and faith is works. I believe the stool will hold...if I believe I place faith in it.

The works are me sitting in the chair. Belief doesn't always involve faith. Some never sit down.

But then James shows them the reality, some examples..."this is what I mean guys" **V. 20**

- **(vv. 21-24) Abraham** – believed and acted (a patriarch of our faith, the upper echelon)

- **(v.25) Rahab** – believed and acted (the complete opposite of Abraham – gentile prostitute)

A Patriarch and a Prostitute: **How do they relate**...both revealed a Faith in God through their works.

James is saying this....It's impossible to believe and not act...if there are no works there is no faith.

True Faith in Christ produces Real works in life.

James is NOT saying that FAITH + WORKS Or anything else = Salvation.

James is saying that if that Faith is real.....you will see works. **TRUE FAITH IN CHRIST PRODUCES REAL WORKS IN LIFE.**

They aren't optional, they're inevitable.

So WHAT NOW?: You need to ask yourself some questions. Mainly....are you sitting down? **(do you have & show faith?)**

Is there Faith present? How would I know? Are works present? Is there a heart to serve/share/seek?

Tonight should help us see that our faith in Christ is not some emotional thing or KNOW more thing.

Some followers only SOAK IN without GIVING AWAY. Some only Know things without doing things. **BE Squeezed!**

The danger is to know a lot about God w/out placing FAITH in Him to do what only He can do!

The danger is to think you can Do a lot of works and earn your way to Heaven.

James is saying this....YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST IS REVEALED IN THE WORKS YOU DO IN THIS LIFE.

Is there a heart, longing, desire to **serve God – Share Christ – Seek Him** (scriptures, services, daily life)

So I would simply say, take this group time to search your heart, your life, your desire. **Are you SITTING DOWN?**

True Belief in Christ produces Real works in life. And listen...this is not a do better thing. Christ does the work.

But are we trusting and believing in Him to do this work or do we just simply KNOW that He can?

GROUP TIME - ?'s on card