

What Is Faith?

First things first:

James 2:18-26

Our faith will either be **demonstrated** or **demonic**.

Faith has action...or it's not real faith:

Hebrews 11:1-7

Biblical faith is:

- ✓ Our **belief** in **action**.

- ✓ **Understanding**, **conviction** AND **commitment**.

- ✓ Not necessarily rewarded **here on earth**.
Genesis 4:1-8

- ✓ The only **possible** way to **please** God.
Genesis 5:12-25

- ✓ The reason we live **differently** than our **culture**.
Genesis 6:9-22

The truth about faith:

Matthew 7:21-27, John 13:34-35, 14:23-24, 1 John 2:3-6, 3:16-18, 4:15-21
Genesis 15:1-6, 22:1-18, Joshua 2

- ▶ There is no **saving** faith without **Lordship**.

- ▶ There is no **Lordship** without **surrender**.

- ▶ There is no **surrender** without **change**.

“The grace that does not change my life, will not save my soul.”

- Charles Spurgeon

Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 13, 2018

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1

We've often heard that "faith is trusting God enough to do what he says." We all have had different experiences with trust and have certain levels of mistrust in different areas. Mark anything you would have trouble trusting below:

Parachute

Airplane

Food truck food

Elevator

Bungee cord

Cats/Dogs/Birds

Tap water

Christmas treats from a neighbor

2

Chris asked the question, "If this week you stopped acting out your faith, how would your life be different?" Was there anything that came to mind?

DIGGING DEEPER

This week we heard our faith must be much more than just a belief or understanding of God, it must be an action. As we look at the life of Jesus and watch the calls he made to the crowds following him, we get a better understanding of what faith in action looks like. The next four passages give examples of Jesus calling his followers to action. Read through each and answer the questions below.

**Group Suggestion: For a different approach, try breaking into groups of three or four, each discussing a passage and then discussing that passage with the whole group.*

Matthew 16:24-25 *New International Version (NIV)* ²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life^[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

- In one or two sentences, how would you sum this verse up in your own words?
- How might this verse play out in a person's life?
- What keeps you from doing this?
- Can you think of any times you've done this well?

Mark 9:35 *New International Version (NIV)* ³⁵ **Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”**

- In one or two sentences, how would you sum this verse up in your own words?
- How might this verse play out in a person’s life?
- What keeps you from doing this?
- Can you think of any times you’ve done this well?

Matthew 18:2-3 *New International Version (NIV)* ² **He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them.** ³ **And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.**

- In one or two sentences, how would you sum this verse up in your own words?
- How might this verse play out in a person’s life?
- What keeps you from doing this?
- Can you think of any times you’ve done this well?

Luke 18:9-14 *New International Version (NIV)* ⁹ **To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable:** ¹⁰ **“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.** ¹¹ **The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector.** ¹² **I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’¹⁴ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”**

- In one or two sentences, how would you sum this verse up in your own words?
- How might this verse play out in a person’s life?
- What keeps you from doing this?
- Can you think of any times you’ve done this well?

Which of these verses is most challenging for you to put into practice?

Are there any reoccurring themes each time you answered the question: “*What keeps you from doing this?*”

TAKING IT HOME

In light of this week's teaching and study on faith in action, is there anything Jesus is calling you to start, stop or keep doing?

PRAISE / PRAYER REQUESTS:

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