

OF JAMES

James - Part 3
Placebo Faith
Pastor Dave Patterson
3.3.19

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to get through the questions, but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships.
~~Use the discussion questions as you see fit, but emphasize the relationships.~~

**So faith, if it does not have works to back it up,
is by itself dead**
[inoperative and ineffective].

James 2:17 (AMP)

James 1:19-20

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires

James 1:21-24

Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

James 1:25 (AMP)

*But he who looks carefully into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and faithfully abides by it, not having become a careless listener who forgets but an active doer who obeys, **They will be blessed and favored in what they do.***

It's the simple acts of faith-filled obedience that activate supernatural blessing in our lives

1 Corinthians 15:10

*But God's amazing grace has made me who I am! And **his grace to me was not without results.** In fact, I worked harder than all the rest, yet not in my own strength but God's, for his empowering grace is poured out upon me.*

James 2:12-26 (TPT)

*My dear brothers and sisters, what good is it if someone claims to have faith but demonstrates no good works to prove it? How could this kind of faith save anyone? For example, if a brother or sister in the faith is poorly clothed and hungry and you leave them saying, "Good-bye. I hope you stay warm and have plenty to eat," but you don't provide them with a coat or even a cup of soup, what good is your faith? **So then faith that doesn't involve action is phony.***

But someone might object and say, "One person has faith and another person has works." Go ahead then and prove to me that you have faith without works and I will show you faith by my works as proof that I believe. You can believe all you want that there is one true God, that's wonderful! But even the demons know this and tremble with fear before him, yet they're unchanged—they remain demons.

O foolish person, do you need further evidence that faith divorced from good works is phony? Wasn't our ancestor Abraham found righteous before God because of his works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? Can't you see how his action cooperated with his faith and by his action faith found its full expression? So, in this way the Scripture was fulfilled:

Because Abraham believed God, his faith was exchanged for God's righteousness.

So he became known as the friend of God! So now it's clear that a person is seen as righteous in God's eyes not merely by faith alone, but by his works.

And the same is true of the prostitute named Rahab who was found righteous in God's eyes by her works, for she received the spies into her home and helped them escape from the city by another route. For just as a human body without the spirit is a dead corpse, so faith without the expression of good works is dead!

Two Ways to Activate the Blessing of God in Your Life

- 1. Be obedient and simply do the last thing God told you**

Genesis 22:17-18

The Lord declared... ‘because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.’

Joshua 2:11-12

No wonder our hearts have melted in fear! No one has the courage to fight after hearing such things. For the LORD your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below.

“Now swear to me by the LORD that you will be kind to me and my family since I have helped you.

2. Respond in faith to divine opportunity

Matthew 1:1 & 5

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac,

Isaac the father of Jacob,

Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers...

... Salmon was the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,

TALK IT THROUGH

1. Can you think of a time when you counted on a vital piece of equipment and it didn't work at all? Describe how you felt about the inconvenience.
2. Read the key verse for this week, James 2:17, and also James 1:21-25. What type of lifestyle is God calling us to? How is the faith that isn't accompanied by works described?
3. God's grace is always the initiator in a life of true faith. But grace is also an activator (1 Cor. 15:10). Discuss what that means to you. Consider the two phrases Pastor Dave gave: "grace has a work-ethic" and "faith has a response."
4. Read James 2:12-26 together, and discuss the contrasting lives, and yet "in the same way" examples of Abraham and Rahab. What do we learn about grace, faith, and works?
5. Pastor Dave presented two ways we can experience, even activate, the blessing of God on our lives. The first, to be obedient to the last thing He spoke to you. Is there a clear

instruction God has given that you've yet to move forward on? What would it take this week, to take one step of faith in that – to put faith to work?

- “The provision of God will be found on the mountain of sacrifice, not the valley of compromise or self-preservation.” - Pastor Dave

6. The second way we can experience the blessing of God is to respond in faith to divine opportunity. Wherever you may be in your journey, you have the opportunity and choice to step into the “move of God” right where you are. What would this look like to respond in active faith practically in your life this week?