
#6 “Faith By Itself Is Dead”

James 2:14-26

TODD DUGARD | APRIL 13, 2014

THE
**NO-NONSENSE
GUIDE**
TO AN
**EXTRAORDINARY
CHRISTIAN LIFE**
- THE BOOK OF
JAMES

Warming Up

1. Discuss Pastor Todd’s statement: “A profession of faith is not equal to the possession of faith. Proof of the profession confirms the possession.” What are your thoughts?

Digging In

2. *The faith that saves me . . . makes a difference (2:15-18).*
 - What is the primary way that God provides for believers who are in need (see Galatians 6:10)? To what degree are you part of his solution?
 - How would you articulate the connection between saving faith and good works? Can one exist without the other? Why? What would you say to someone who believes that works earn us favour with God?
3. *The faith that saves me . . . flows from sound teaching (2:19-20).*
 - Why is having sound theology (i.e., right doctrine) insufficient when it comes to saving faith? What are some of the biblical truths that even the demons believe (yet are not saved)?
 - “The theology of the demons at least makes them shake with fear. What is mine doing for me?” How would you answer this probing question?
4. *The faith that saves me . . . challenges the status quo (2:21-22).*
 - Recount the story of Abraham and Isaac (see Genesis 22). How did Abraham’s faith challenge the status quo? What is your response to his actions?
 - How is status-quo faith acceptable to the world around us? Why is it important that our faith in God never becomes so comfortable that it is not still stretching us? How are you finding this to be true in your own life?
5. *The faith that saves me . . . identifies me as God’s own (2:23).*
 - What does it mean to you personally knowing that, as a Christ follower, you are a “friend of God”? Or that you are an adopted son or daughter of God (Ephesians 1:5)? How can these truths settle potential struggles regarding your identity?
6. *The faith that saves me . . . aligns me with God’s purposes (2:24-26).*
 - Retell the story of Rahab (see Joshua 2). How did she align herself with God’s purposes? How did her actions prove her faith?

Breaking Out

7. Everything you do in life demonstrates whether you have faith or not. That said, what evidence would you offer to substantiate the reality of your faith? Is there enough support for your claim? Pray for an appropriate assurance of salvation.



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