

**Sermon:** Real Faith Works.  
**Series:** James: Real Wisdom, Real Faith.

**Scripture:** James 2:14-17.  
**Date:** November 14, 2021

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**OBSERVATION** -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

**INTERPRETATION** -- Answer these questions together:

**1. What does this passage teach us about God?**

a) What happens to our view of God if we get faith and works wrong? What kind of God do we have if it is all works and no faith? What kind of God do we have if it is all faith and no works?

**2) What does this passage teach us about us?**

a) Would you call yourself a person of faith? What are some things you have faith in?

b) How do you respond to verse 15-16? What makes being merciful difficult for you/easy for you?

c) Read James 2:5. We are "heirs" who are "rich in faith." How does this truth help you to understand the role of good works in your salvation?

**3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?**

a) Do you have saving faith? Have you transferred your trust to Jesus? Explain your answer.

Definition of Saving Faith: *Saving Faith is a transfer of trust away from ourselves and into the hope of Jesus Christ – his life and his work on the cross – that removed our guilt and offers us new life.*

b) Our union with Christ is the power for our good works: 1) Christ's good work was done for us (Gal. 2:20), 2) Christ is the one doing the good works through us (Eph. 2:10), and 3) All good works done for others are done for Christ (Mt. 25:40). Which of these truths about our union with Christ stands out to you? Motivates you? Encourages you?

**APPLICATION**

a) In what ways are your good deeds flowing from your faith? In what ways are they flowing from self-righteousness? Be specific.

b) Does your faith do anyone any good? Is there any specific way that God is nudging you to do good or show mercy?

**FIGHTER VERSES: James 2:14-17.**

**PRAYER**

- Praise God for saving you by faith alone apart from works of the law.
- Confess ways that you have failed to show mercy to those in need.
- Ask God to help you demonstrate your saving faith through acts of mercy.