



Becoming a People Who... Live Their Faith

"Living Our Faith"

(James 2:14-26, 1:22-27)

Message Notes: May 19, 2019

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Today we continue our mini-series through the book of James as we examine the centrality of both FAITH and OBEDIENCE in our walk with Christ.

- You could summarize this short, practical book of James with the simple phrase – **"Live your faith."**
- The crux of this theme is found in James 2:14-26: "... as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead."
- YES, faith is essential for salvation and life in Christ.
 1. John 3:16 "... and whosoever BELIEVES in Him, will not perish, but have everlasting life."
 2. Hebrews 11:6 "... without FAITH, it is impossible to please God."
 3. Galatians 2:20 "... and this life I now live ... I live by FAITH in the Son of God."
- Obedience is essential for our life in Christ. (our obedient deeds reveal and fuel our faith)
 1. John 14:15: "if you love me, you will obey what I command."
 2. I John 2:3-6: "We know we have come to know Him if we obey His commands."

Faith is essential. Obedience is essential. The truest "both/and" of our life in Christ.

- Our obedience (deeds/works) do NOT save us. We are saved from our sin and separation by GRACE. It is a gift from God, through the sacrificial death of Jesus. It is free. Unearned. For all (who believe).
- A beautiful wrapped gift is meaningless unless we take it, unwrap it, open it, and "use" it. Faith is how we receive God's great gift. Obedience is how we "use"/ live in this gift.
- GRACE given by GOD, received by FAITH ... responded to with OBEDIENCE (deeds).
- Analogous to drowning in the ocean – our thrashing and screaming don't save us. Salvation comes when a life buoy is tossed to us. The buoy saves us, but we must grab it (by faith) and then we hold on and kick along (obedience).

We experience the essence of faith in simple ways all the time:

1. A chair: I believe it will hold me and allow me to sit and rest, but this "faith" means nothing unless I go to the chair and lower myself into it (faith in action).
2. Cell phone: unless I pick it up and dial the number and speak into it (faith in action)
3. Microwave: I may not understand all the physics behind a microwave, but when I put food in it to And press "start," I demonstrate my faith in its function and power. (faith in action)

James 1:22-27. If I don't put my faith into action, if I just read God's Word but never DO what it says, I am like a person who looks in a mirror and then walks away and forgets what she/he looks like.

Ephesians 2:8-10 captures perfectly this beautiful interplay of Grace, Faith, and Obedience. *I will leave it with you to “take action” and look this verse up and ponder on it. May you be encouraged by the assuring gift of grace, and may you be inspired to walk in the joy of “good works which he prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”*