

**September 29th 2024**

**James 2:14-26**

**Saving Faith**

**James 2:14–26 ESV**

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”— and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

**Luke 3:10–11 ESV**

And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.”

**John 6:29 ESV**

Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

**Mark 6:37 ESV**

But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?”

**Ephesians 2:8–10 ESV**

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

**John 15:15 ESV**

No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

**Hebrews 11:1 ESV**

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

**Hebrews 11:6 ESV**

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it

will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.

-C.S Lewis

### **Life Group questions**

- 1. What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?**
- 2. Can you consider any examples where someone says one thing but lives the opposite? What encouragement would you give this person?**
- 3. Why is it healthy to examine ourselves to ensure that our faith is genuine? How can we help others with this process?**
- 4. What counsel would you give to another believer who has evidence of genuine faith but who never feels like he or she measures up to God's standard?**
- 5. How can God's love for you encourage you as you let your works complete your faith?**
- 6. What encourages you about Abraham and Rahab's life? How did their works confirm their faith?**
- 7. How might your Life group encourage one another to live out this passage this next week?**
- 8. Finish your group time by asking if anyone in the group has a specific trial or temptation they could use prayer in. Pray over them?**