

5. Developing Overcoming Faith

Sub-title: Faith without works is dead

We are journeying through a series of messages on the subject of faith, to (re)learn and be reminded of:

- what faith is
- how faith works
- how to get faith
- how to live by faith
- how to release faith into every area of our lives

1 John 5:4–5 (NIV) *For everyone born of God overcomes the world. **This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.** 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? **Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.***

- Only (born again) believers in Jesus Christ are able to overcome the world
- Our faith in Jesus Christ lifts us above the world, into a place of victory

1. Adding corresponding action to our faith

James 2:14–17 (NLT) *What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, **if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone?** 15 Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, 16 and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? 17 **So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.***

- James is teaching the believers about how to make their faith operational
- He is telling them how to get their faith to work properly
- He says:
 - If you see ...
 - And you say ...
 - But if you don't do ... its dead & useless faith
- Dead: Lifeless, inactive, lacking force or power, inoperative
- Notice vs.14...**if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions...**

- The confession of our faith is very necessary, but it alone isn't enough to make our faith operational
- Confessing our faith is only one of several vital components of our faith
- Vs. 17 says: ... *faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless*
- James says: You have to add a corresponding action to your faith, otherwise it is dead & useless

James 2:14 (Weymouth NT) *What good is it, my brethren, if a man professes to have faith, and yet **his actions do not correspond?***

- Our actions must correspond with the words we profess, otherwise our faith is dead (and non-operational)
- Real Bible faith will always produce a **corresponding action** along with our **believing** and our **speaking**

2. What does it mean to add corresponding action to our faith?

- God's Word says: Let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to the Lord (Heb.13:15)
So therefore, we continually offer the sacrifice of praise to the Lord!
- God's Word says: Forgive those who have sinned against us (Matt 18:21)
So therefore, we forgive all who have sinned against us!
- God's Word says: Honour the Lord with your possessions (Proverbs 3:9)
So therefore, we honour the Lord with our possessions!
- God's Word says: Give thanks to the Lord (Psalm 118:1)
So therefore, we make great efforts to give thanks to the Lord always

3. Our corresponding action makes our faith complete

James 2:21–22 (NLT) *Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God **by his actions** when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? **22** You see, **his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete.***

- Abraham wasn't just mentally agreeing with God's command to offer up his son Isaac
- He followed through with action, and headed up the mountain (Gen. 22:6)
- Vs. 22. (Abraham's) ... *faith and his actions worked together ...*
- ... ***His actions made his faith complete ...***
- Complete: come to fulness, become complete

4. The doers of God's Word will be blessed

James 1:22–25 (NLT) *But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. 23 For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. 24 You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. 25 But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.*

- Vs. 22 ... *Don't just listed to God's Word ...*
- Although faith comes by listening (hearing), hearing alone isn't enough
- We must add the confession of our faith – we speak the Word
- Then, our “speech” must be matched by our “deeds”
- We must “practice” what we “proclaim”

5. James makes a summary statement at the end of chpt. 2

James 2:26 (NKJV) *For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*

- James spends half a chapter explaining the need to add action to our faith
- He uses biblical examples of Abraham and Rahab
- Then he makes a dramatic summary statement
- *as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also*
- In other words, faith without corresponding action is as dead as the lifeless body of a deceased body

6. Joshua, do what the Word says

Joshua 1:7–8 (NKJV) *Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

Real Bible Faith means:

- **Hearing** what the Word of God says
- **Believing** in our heart what the Word of God says
- **Confessing** with our mouth what the Word of God says
- **Doing** what the Word of God says