

James Series Going Deeper

5- Day Devotional

Week 8, Day 1: The Danger of Empty Faith

Verse of the Day

“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?” — James 2:14

Primary Focus Statement

Real faith is more than something we claim. It is something that transforms us.

Devotional

James opens this section with one of the most sobering questions in all of Scripture.

“What good is it if someone SAYS he has faith...”

The emphasis is on the word “says.”

James is confronting a person whose Christianity exists primarily in profession but not transformation.

A person who knows the language of faith...

but whose life remains untouched by the power of Christ.

This is deeply important because James understands something that many people miss:

It is possible to possess religious language without possessing genuine spiritual life.

A person can:

- **know Scripture,**
- **attend church,**
- **sing worship songs,**
- **identify as a Christian,**
- **understand theology,**
- **even emotionally respond to sermons...**

...and still never truly surrender to Jesus Christ.

James is not attacking weak believers here.

He is exposing counterfeit faith.

A faith that remains completely disconnected from obedience, surrender, repentance, and transformation is not biblical saving faith.

Why?

Because when Jesus truly saves someone, He changes them.

Not perfectly.

Not instantly.

But genuinely.

The gospel is not merely an invitation to believe facts about Jesus.

It is an invitation to die to yourself and follow Him.

This is why James asks:

“Can THAT faith save him?”

In other words:

Can a faith that produces absolutely no evidence of spiritual life actually be genuine?

James' answer is no.

Because real faith always moves a person toward Christ.

It changes desires.

Changes priorities.

Changes direction.

Changes the heart.

The evidence of salvation is not perfection.

The evidence of salvation is transformation.

Reflection

1. **Is my faith primarily something I claim or something that is transforming my life?**
2. **What evidence of spiritual growth and surrender do I see in myself?**
3. **Are there areas where I know truth intellectually but resist obeying God personally?**

1 Action Step

Spend intentional time in prayer asking God to expose any areas where your faith has become more external than transformational.