

Weekend Teaching Discussion Guide

30 Days to Greater Faith: Week Three

Faith That Moves

Teaching by Pastor Charlie

WARM-UP QUESTION

- Think about a time when you believed something strongly enough that it changed what you did. What caused you to act on that belief?

DISCUSS

Faith Trusts Christ

Pastor Charlie challenged us to recognize the difference between saying we believe something and actually living as though we believe it. James asks what good it is if someone claims to have faith but never allows that faith to affect their actions.

The word “**claims**” is important. James is not attacking faith or suggesting that we earn salvation through good behavior. Instead, he challenges a faith that exists only in our words but never reaches our lives.

James 2:14–26

Biblical faith begins with trusting Jesus. We do not earn our relationship with God by becoming good enough. Jesus came to us, died for us, and rose from the grave. Grace comes first, and faith is our response to that grace.

Trusting Jesus means trusting Him with every area of our lives, including our relationships, future, finances, habits, identity, and the areas nobody else sees.

- What is the difference between knowing about Jesus and actually trusting Jesus?
- What area of your life is hardest for you to fully trust Jesus with?

Jesus Takes Us Deeper

It can be easy to hear a message about faith and immediately think, “I just need to do more.” We may think we need to pray more, serve more, give more, share Jesus more, or simply try harder.

But Jesus gives us a different picture in John 15. He does not tell His followers to try harder to produce fruit. He tells us to remain in Him.

John 15:1–17

Jesus describes Himself as the vine and His followers as the branches. A branch cannot produce fruit by itself. It must remain connected to the vine.

This means greater faith is not about striving to manufacture spiritual fruit. It begins by staying connected to Jesus.

- What is the difference between trying harder to become like Jesus and remaining connected to Jesus?
- What are some practical ways you can remain connected to Jesus throughout your week?

Fruit Is Evidence of Life

Pastor Charlie used the picture of fruit growing on a tree. The fruit does not make the tree alive. Instead, the fruit is evidence that life is flowing through the tree.

The same is true spiritually. Our works do not make us alive in Christ. Our works demonstrate that Christ is alive in us.

When we remain connected to Jesus, something begins to grow. Love, patience, compassion, generosity, forgiveness, courage, obedience, holiness, and a desire for others to know Jesus begin to develop in our lives.

Fruit usually does not appear overnight. Jesus is not asking whether we have reached perfection. The question is whether we are connected to Him and allowing Him to transform us.

John 15:5

- When you look back at your life, where can you see evidence that Jesus is changing you?

- What kind of fruit do you believe Jesus is currently trying to produce in your life?

The Order Matters

Pastor Charlie emphasized that the order of the gospel matters.

The gospel is not:

Work harder → Become better → Earn Jesus

The gospel is:

Jesus → Faith → Transformation → Fruit

Jesus comes first. Grace comes first. Love comes first. Our lives become a response to what Jesus has already done for us.

Obedience is not an attempt to convince God to love us. Obedience is our response to the God who already loves us.

As we abide in Jesus, His life begins showing up in ours. We begin to love like Jesus, serve like Jesus, forgive like Jesus, see people like Jesus, and share Jesus with others.

- Why is it important to understand that obedience is a response to God's love rather than a way to earn His love?
- Which area of Jesus' character do you most want to see growing in your life right now?

Faith Moves

James does not allow us to simply hear the message and say, "That was interesting." Faith moves.

Pastor Charlie challenged us to ask one important question:

Because I trust Jesus, what is my next step of obedience?

Maybe there is someone you need to forgive. Maybe there is something you need to confess. Maybe God is calling you to serve, become more generous, share Jesus with someone, or pursue reconciliation in a relationship.

Sometimes our greatest spiritual problem is not that we do not know what Jesus said. We know exactly what He said. We simply have not acted on it yet.

Greater faith is not just believed. **It is lived.**

- What is one specific next step of obedience you believe Jesus may be asking you to take?
- What has been keeping you from acting on it?

CLOSING REFLECTION

Take a few moments to consider these three questions:

- **Where is Jesus asking me to trust Him?**
- **What action would demonstrate that trust?**
- **What fruit is Jesus trying to produce in my life?**

PRAYER

God, thank You for sending Jesus and for loving us before we could ever earn Your love. Help us to trust You deeply, remain connected to You, and allow our faith to become visible through the way we live. Show us our next step of obedience and give us the courage to act on it. Grow Your fruit in our lives so that the people around us can see Jesus through us. In Jesus' name, Amen.