October 4, 2026 Does My Life Match My Faith?

(Series Info)
Burning Words
We live in a world full of voices competing for our attention. But volume doesn't equal truth. In Burning Words, we'll hear from voices in Scripture whose messages still speak to the struggles we face today-calling us from compromise to conviction, fear to faith, and wandering back to God. Because God's truth doesn't change with culture... and some messages are too important to ignore.

This week's message will be given by our Campus Pastors.

(Personal Fun Facts)
What is one thing about you that people would never guess just by looking at you?

(Takeaways)
What was a major takeaway moment during the sermon this week?

(Big Idea)
You can worship God and still miss God.

(Discussion)
Scripture: Amos 5: 21–24
Amos is a prophet who comes down on religious people and their worship. The way Israel was living their lives didn't match up to the songs they sang in their worship. They gathered together for worship, offered sacrifices, sang the songs, and even observed the prescribed festivals. They showed up, but there was a disconnect between worship and life. God doesn't tell them that He hates worship; He is saying that He rejects worship that is only skin deep … worship that is not ultimately transformational. Their worship wasn't changing them; there was a mismatch between their worship and their living. Worship should be from the heart touching the Father's heart. Their worship became only noise to God.

- 1) What is the danger of becoming very comfortable with religious activity, including our worship to God?

- 2) How can we tell when our faith has become something we practice rather than something that is transforming us?

Scripture: Romans 12:1–2

One of the mistakes we can make is reducing worship to what happens in the worship service. Biblically, worship includes gathering together, singing, praying, preaching, sharing communion, and giving … but worship is larger than all these elements to the service. Worship isn't just something we do; worship is the offering of who we are to God.

- 3) When you hear the word "worship," what do you instinctively think about?

- 4) What would change if we evaluated Sunday worship by who we became Monday through Saturday? Why is it easier to measure worship by what happened in the room on the weekend rather than by what happens in our lives throughout the week?

Scripture: Matthew 5:23–24

Jesus says something about as shocking as Amos did. Someone is standing at the altar doing something religious in worship and Jesus says for them to stop worshiping for a moment. "Go deal with the broken relationship and then come back." Jesus refuses to allow us to separate our relationship with God from our relationships with people. This is where we see the embodiment of the Great Commandment (to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves) play out.

- 5) Why do you think Jesus connects reconciliation with worship?

- 6) Is there someone with whom you are tempted to say, "My relationship with them has nothing to do with my relationship with God?"

- 7) What is worship doing to you?

Personal Application: Does My Life Match My Faith?

- Do my words I use about people reflect the God I worship?
- Is there a relationship where pride, resentment, or bitterness is contradicting my worship?
- Is there a particular group of people I have stopped noticing?
- Are there any places where my public Christianity and private life don't match?
- Am I becoming more like Jesus or simply becoming more knowledgeable about Jesus?

Action Steps

- Reconcile: Take the first step in contacting, forgiving, or apologizing to someone to seek peace.
- Notice: Is there anyone around you that you have overlooked. Intentionally see them this week.
- Act Justly: Identify one situation where you can use your influence for someone who has less power or a voice than you do.
- Align: Examine your life for one thing that doesn't match the faith you profess, bring it honestly before God and take a concrete step toward change.
- Take Worship Home: After worship this next week, ask this question: "God, how should what I just experienced change the way I live this week?"

Closing Prayer

Father,
we don't want to simply worship You with our lips while our lives remain unchanged. Let what we sing become what we live. Where there is pride in us, make us humble. Where there is bitterness, teach us forgiveness. Where we have ignored others, open our eyes. Where we have participated in injustice, give us courage to make things right. Where our lives don't match our faith, lovingly bring us back to You. May our worship not end when we leave the room. Let justice roll through our lives like a river, and righteousness like a never-failing stream.

And make us more like Jesus.

Amen.