



THE HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP

THIS WEEK AT THF

TUESDAY

7:00pm-9:00pm ▶ **THF COLLEGE - College Worship & Small Groups**
Meets at THF!

WEDNESDAY

7:00pm-8:30pm ▶ **THF STUDENTS - Worship & Small Groups**
Doors & Youth Cafe open at 6:30pm

THURSDAY

6:30am-7:30am ▶ **MEN'S MINISTRY - Fellowship & Bible Study**
Meets in the THF Mall

JANUARY 21, 2024

Please continue to check all of our
social media outlets and our website
for updates to weekly activities
and Sunday Services.

www.theheightsfellowship.org



UPCOMING AT THF

MAR 24
LORD'S SUPPER

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

JANUARY 14, 2023

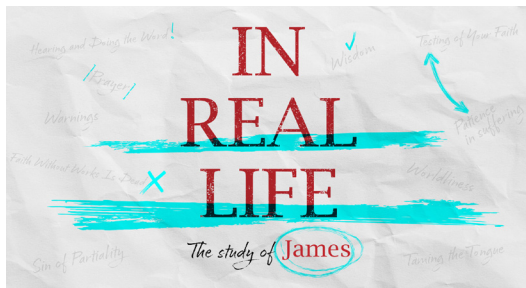
BUDGET GIVING: \$22,724.07

BUDGET NEEDS: \$38,332.07

YEAR TO DATE

BUDGET GIVING: \$18,919.00

BUDGET NEEDS: \$35,136.00



FAITH WORKS PART 1

Faith alone justified. But faith that justifies is never alone.

- John Calvin

ILLUS: DR ALFRED ADLER -

"TRUST ONLY IN MOVEMENT.

LIFE HAPPENS AT THE LEVEL OF ACTION."

James is addressing the question of REAL - "How do I know..."

How do I handle TRIALS? | Do I PERSEVERE with joy or do I DOUBT God?

How do I handle TEMPTATION? | Do I BLAME or do I TRUST what God said?

How do I handle the SCRIPTURES? | Do I RESPOND to them?

How do I handle PEOPLE? | Do I follow God's LEAD or am I PARTIAL?

How do I handle FAITH? | Is my faith LIVING or DEAD?

Faith is a lot like calories...

you can't really see them, but you can sure see their results!

- Chuck Swindoll

James starts with two questions —

What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works?

Can that faith save him? James 2:14

THE HELPFUL QUES. What use is a faith without works?

THE GENUINE QUES. Can that faith save?

FAITH USED 16X IN JAS
11X IN THIS PASSAGE
IN THE 5X OUTSIDE
THIS PASSAGE, FAITH IS
ALWAYS POSITIVE

James' line of questioning implies:

— That there is a version of 'faith' that does not SAVE

— It is not about a MATURE faith v an IMMATURE faith...

it is essentially contrasting SAVING (Living) faith with DEAD (no) faith!

James highlights the truth with this: 'if a man says he has faith...'

POSESSION of faith > PROFESSION of faith

...people with dead faith always substitute words for deeds...

- MacArthur

Consistent Teaching of the Bible on This

Prophets - God doesn't delight in sacrifices...but 'possession' of faith *Is 1:11-18*

John the Baptist warned against the false faith *Matt 3:7-9*

Jesus - the Sermon on the Mount *Matt 5:16,7:21*

Jesus - You will know faith by what you DO *Luke 6:43-44; Matt 7:16-20; 12:33*

Jesus - to Nicodemus *John 3:2 v John 3:3*

Jesus would not commit to empty professors *John 2:23-25; 8:30-31*

Paul taught faith created more than talk *Rom 2:6,14:12, Eph 2:10; Titus 1:16*

Notes from The Heights

Series: In Real Life

James is very certain about two things -

Knowledge about something is not the same as TRUST in something

Knowing is *not necessarily* the same as REDEMPTION

The issue in James 2 is this: DOES JAMES CONTRADICT PAUL?

NO!

MORE NEXT WEEK

Sharp Clarification -

NEITHER James, nor Paul suggest "Salvation is by works!"
BOTH will agree that salvation is BY grace, THROUGH faith, and
UNTO good works

How Do I Recognize False Faith?

#1 - False Faith does not TRANSLATE PRACTICALLY *vv15-16*

15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?

Living faith expresses itself in COMPASSION motivated by LOVE

17 But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. 19 We shall know by this that we are of the truth, and shall assure our heart before Him...

MATT 25:31-FF

1 John 3:17-19

It is an empty confession that never fleshes out into ACTION

#2 - False Faith exists in a VACUUM *vv17-18*

17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. 18 But someone may well say, "You have faith, and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

False faith has nothing to VALIDATE it - it is 'by itself'

Real Faith can not help but to be SHOWN ('show' = exhibit)

Spirit-empowered deeds will ALWAYS accompany spirit-filled faith

#3 - False Faith is less than DEMON faith *vv19-20*

19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

20 But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?

— confuses knowledge or awareness with saving faith or REDEMPTION

— mixes up EMOTION and DEVOTION

— has no WILLFUL OBEDIENCE

"Faith and works are bound up in the same bundle. He that obeys God trusts God; and he that trusts God obeys God. He that is without faith is without works; and he that is without works is without faith."

- Charles Spurgeon

Notes from The Heights

Series: In Real Life

THF LIFENotes
Week of January 21

1. Respond to this statement: It is unloving to question whether someone has genuine biblical faith.
2. How would you define biblical faith to an unbeliever?
3. If not even mature Believers are sinless, how can we hope to meet James' standard from Mike's message?
4. Why is it so easy to blur the line between doing a good work as a means to salvation and doing a good work as evidence of salvation? Discuss with your group.
5. What counsel would you give to a friend who believes the teachings of scripture but has no spiritual fruit?
6. If God ultimately produces spiritual fruit in our lives, what role do we play in pursuing greater maturity in the faith?