

Showing Up

A STUDY OF JAMES

SERMON SERIES | APRIL 16 - MAY 28



Sunday, April 30, 2023

Showing Up: "Blurry Faith"

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Notes:

James 2:14-26

- Hebrews 11:6 (ESV) 6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.
- James 2:14-17 (ESV) 14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.
- Let us begin by looking at the first type of faith that is alluded to in our passage.

I. _____.

- James poses a question in verse 14, it is a simple question.
- If a person SAYS they have faith, but does not demonstrate it, can that faith save him?
- We are given an example of a person who has a verbal faith in verses 15-16
- 1 John 3:17 (ESV) 17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?
- James 2:18-20 (ESV) 18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! 20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

II. _____.

- The point is this, how do you display your faith without works?

- In verse 19 James speaks of how the folks believe that God is one, playing off the Old Testament Teaching, from Deuteronomy 6:4-5.

- Will an intellectual faith save you, or is there something more?

Let's finish with verses 21-26

James 2:20–26 (ESV) 20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. 25 And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? 26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

III. _____.

- Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

- The question in verse 20 sums it up, there MUST be more to our faith than words or head knowledge, we must add something to that mix.

- A saving faith is one that understands that we have a part to play in our salvation!

- Philippians 2:12 (ESV) 12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

- Galatians 2:20 (ESV) 20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Next Steps

Do you need to find faith in Jesus Christ today?

Are you willing to get into the wheelbarrow?

Is your faith the type that will cause you to act? Is your faith evident in your life?

What's causing you to have blurry Faith? Has someone juiced the gloves?

There are three kinds of faith, which one do you have?