

“Spirit-Filled Faith”

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Sunday, July 7, 2019
The Bridge Church

“IT” Sermon Series, Week 5

Faith without Good Deeds Is Dead

¹⁴ What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? ¹⁵ Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, ¹⁶ and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well" — but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?

... ¹⁷ So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

¹⁸ Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds."

...

...¹⁹ You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God.[a] Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. ²⁰ How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless? ²¹ Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God b his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?...

... ²² You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. ²³ And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.” He was even called the friend of God. ²⁴ So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone.

- James 2:14-24 (NLT)

“To walk humbly with your God.”

- Micah 6: 8b

Spirit-Filled Faith

“In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

- James 2: 17

I. DEAD FAITH

“You are like white-washed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones and everything unclean.”

- Matthew 23: 27

3 Identifying Characteristics of Dead Faith

1. Empty Confession

⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

- Ephesians 2: 8-9 (NLT)

2. False Compassion

“Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, ‘Go, I wish you well; keep warm and be fed,’ but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?”

- James 2:15-16

3. Shallow Conviction

II. LIVING FAITH

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and himself for me.”

- Galatians 2: 20

“Faith alone justifies, but faith that justifies is never alone.”

- John Calvin

How do you know you have living faith?

IS YOUR FAITH ALIVE?