



## **Sermon Discussion Questions**

Sunday, May 29, 2011

Faith Works: Faith Without Works is Dead

James 2:14-26

Answer the following questions with a simple "yes" or "no". You will discuss why you answered this way later. When answering, think about the purpose of each thing listed:

- \* Is a car that is never driven really a car?
- \* Is a hamburger without a bun really a hamburger?
- \* Is a parent that never spends time with their child really a parent?
- \* Is caffeine-free Mountain Dew really Mountain Dew?
- \* Is faith without works really faith?

Now, go back through each question and tell why you answered the way you did.

**Read James 2:14-16**

**Read Ephesians 2:8-10**

How do both James and Paul define faith? What is its purpose? What happens because of faith?

What brings salvation: faith or works? Why is it important to realize this?

**Read James 2:17**

What does faith by itself look like? Give examples of places you have seen faith that is by itself-without good works.

James describes this kind of faith as dead. In the examples you gave, describe the death of this kind of faith. What does its death look like?

**Read James 2:18-26 (optional: read Genesis 22 and Joshua 2)**

James now gives examples of what faith with good works looks like. He gives examples of two people that are doing things that we would consider "not good". Abraham is willing to kill his son. Rahab lies about hiding spies. Why would these 2 actions be considered, "good works that came from faith?"

Answer these questions with a simple "yes" or "no":

- \*Would Abraham be seen as a man of great faith had he not been willing to sacrifice Isaac?
- \*Would Rahab be considered a woman of great faith if she had not lied about the spies?

Now talk about why you answered the way you did.

How would you define your faith? When are times your faith has been tested and you felt as if you passed the test? What about times you felt that you failed?

**Read 2 Corinthians 13:5**

Paul tells us it is important to have our faith examined and tested. This morning, Pastor Mike asked questions to help us examine our faith. Answer these together, honestly, trusting that the group is a safe place to grow. These questions are to be self-examinations and not comparisons to others in the group:

- \*Do I have a strong desire to grow spiritually and orient my life around God's purposes?
- \*Do I talk as naturally about Jesus as I do other areas of my life?
- \*Do I get more excited about lofty theological matters, political matters, or anything else above the excitement of helping another person come to know Jesus?

\*Do I live a moral life that is described by your Scriptures?

\*Do I serve those that are poor and those that are my brothers and sisters?

\*Has there been a specific time in my life in which I have bowed my knee to Jesus and declared him as Lord and Savior?

End your time asking the Lord to grow your faith, to mature you, and to allow the truth that you are fully loved by God to help you fully love others.