

Becoming Mature in Christ

False Faith

James 2:14-26

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Introduction:

- Real Faith is a must in the life of a Christian.
 - **Ephesians 2:8**
 - **2nd Corinthians 5:7**
 - **Hebrews 11:6**
 - So, what is faith?
 - Someone once said – *“Faith isn’t believing in spite of all the evidence ... faith is obeying in spite of all the consequences.”*
 - But how does the Bible define faith? – **Hebrews 11:1**
 - Some will say that it is hard to have this kind of faith. But what if I told you that everyone has this kind of faith?
 - They just have it in the wrong things.
 - Everyone, even Atheists, have faith. They just misplaced it.
 - **Genesis 22:8-14**
 - **Mark 5:24-34**
 - **Acts 7**
 - **James 2:14-26**
 - We are going to look at three kinds of faith.
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1. Dead Faith:

- a. There were many in the early church who claimed to have faith, but really it was a dead faith.
- b. **Matthew 7:28**
- c. So, how do we know if we have a dead faith?
- d. James says that those who have a dead faith will try to substitute words for deeds.
- e. **Hebrews 10:25**
- f. Saying that you attend a church, but never really attending, is different from being there.
- g. Saying that you have faith without showing it, is not the same.
- h. **James 2:16**
- i. **1st John 3:17-18**
- j. If we have true faith, we will act upon that faith.
- k. **Luke 10:27**

2. Demonic Faith:

- a. **James 2:19**
- b. **Matthew 8:16**
- c. **Mark 5:1-20**
- d. **Mark 5:6-13**
- e. **Luke 4:41**
- f. So, what do the demons believe?
 - 1. They know without a doubt who Jesus Christ is and they recognize His authority.
- g. **Luke 4:33-34**
- h. **Luke 8:31**
- i. You see, even the demons have faith. And their faith causes them to tremble in fear. – **James 2:19**
- j. When was the last time that your faith caused you to shudder in fear?

3. Dynamic Faith:

- a. A dynamic faith is a faith that is real.
- b. Dynamic Faith is based on the Word of God.
- c. **Romans 10:17**
- d. **John 1:1-5**
- e. What does Dynamic Faith look like?
 - 1. Abraham – **Genesis 12:1-3**
 - 2. Rahab – **Joshua 2**
- f. *“Faith isn’t believing in spite of all the evidence ... faith is obeying in spite of all the consequences.”*
- g. Dynamic Faith leads to action:
 - 1. Moses at the Red Sea
 - 2. David with Goliath
 - 3. Daniel in the Lion’s Den
 - 4. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
- h. Dynamic faith leads to action despite the consequences.
- i. Some may say – *“But there are no more giants to fight, lions to tame, or fiery furnaces to stand in.”* ... That is where you are wrong, because there are.
- j. Am I doing all I can to carry out the mission of South Fork?
- k. Please remember – *Faith without works is dead.*
- l. **Revelation 2:10-11**