

Encounter these verses today:

(circle) words that you identify with, underline phrases or sentences you'd like to remember, write questions about the passage out to the side ...



James 2:14-26 [NIV] :: Faith & Deeds Together ::

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? ¹⁵Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

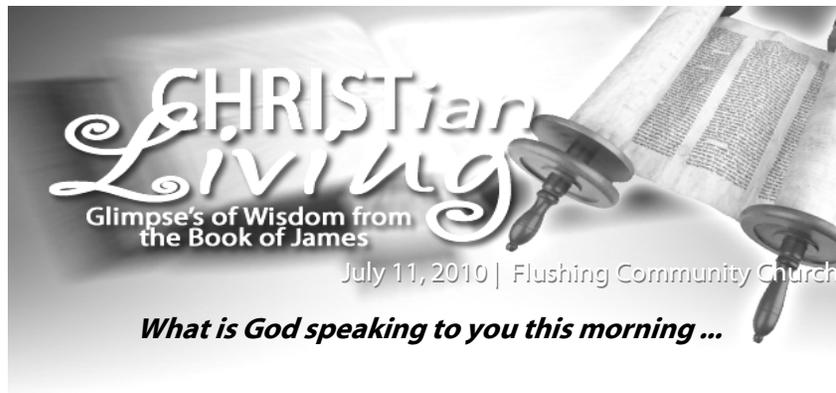
¹⁹You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

²⁰You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? ²¹Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²²You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. ²⁴You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.

²⁵In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? ²⁶As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Ephesians 2:4-10 [NIV] :: Faith vs. Deeds ::

⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.



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Digging Deeper | 2010

[Engage the message throughout the week]

Monday: 7.12.2010

Reading: James 3:13-18

Sunday, we looked at the connectivity of faith and deeds. Faith must be more than simple "belief" and deeds are not the source of salvation. Faith is the beginning of wisdom and deeds are the natural response to God's grace.

Think about it:

As you begin your week, be aware of areas in your life that could use some attention. Pray that God would reveal these areas to you so that you can embrace His wisdom within you.

Pray for: *Families: Hartley & Harvey*

Reflections: _____

Tuesday: 7.13.2010

Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

It seems appropriate to revisit the words of Paul in today's passage. Reading it again reminds me of last Sunday's story of Gideon and how God reduced his army from 32,000 to only 300. Why? He didn't want Israel to boast about their victory. He wanted them to recognize that the victory was only because the Lord was with them.

Think about it:

Your gift of salvation isn't a result of how good you are. It's a result of God's love [period]. Thank God today for that victory!

Pray for: *Families: Horn & Hough*

Reflections: _____

Wednesday: 7.14.2010

Reading: James 5:7-11

This Sunday, Pastor Steve will be sharing about "Living thru Trials." James didn't want his readers to think that a life in Christ would be easy or simple. We certainly realize that today.

Think about it:

How hard is it for you to "be patient and stand firm" as James encourages us to do? Seek God's arrival in your situation today.

Pray for: *Families: Householder & Ingham*

Reflections: _____

Thursday: 7.15.2010

Reading: James 4:13-17

Trials often come without warning. Yet most of us don't plan for them. We just continue to move ahead with life without considering much about tomorrow.

Think about it:

How would your life be different if you could see into the future? Can you see living each day as a precious gift? How can you invest in today as that gift? How can you live for the moment?

Pray for: *Families: Irby & MJohnson*

Reflections: _____

Friday: 7.16.2010

Reading: James 1:2-8

When your last trial (or difficult moment) took place, did you get all joyful inside? Probably not. When you had to answer an important question or take a test, were you thrilled about it? Hmm ... James says testing our faith is good for us. Do you agree?

Think about it:

Continuing our preparation for Sunday's worship, how does faith impact our ability to deal with trials?

Pray for: *Families: TJohnson & Keeler*

Reflections: _____

Saturday: 7.17.2010

Reading: James 1:9-18

Walking with God will bring great joy in the end. James says it will produce a "crown of life" if we pass the test. If the test is what helps us receive the gift, why do we dislike them so much? A crown of life awaits you ... let's embrace the trial! Bring on the temptation! Let's persevere!

Think about it:

How does James encouragement to the church change your view of trials in your life? Can you look back and see how difficult moments and experiences has shaped you into a better person?

Pray for: *Families: King & Kinney*

Reflections: _____
