

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION
God With Us - James 2:14-26 - "Saving Faith"

1. Is there anything specific from this message that the Lord has impressed upon your heart?

If so, what is it & how do you feel the Lord calling you to respond?

2. Have you witnessed a person representing himself one way but not actually being who they said they were?

How does that situation (or a story like "stolen valor" I shared) relate to what James is addressing in James 2:14-26?

How would us claiming to follow Jesus but having no actions that are like Jesus be cause for serious concern?

3. Read James 2:14 and Ephesians 2:8-9 - how are these passages NOT contradictory of one another?

****Remember the importance of context; also, consider reading the very next verse in Ephesians 2 (verse 10) for some help.**

In light of these passages (& all of Scripture), what is the relationship between faith & works in the lives of believers?

Why is it important to rightly understand this, and what are the potential implications of getting this wrong?

(how can this lead to erroneously believing that we're saved by our works or that righteous living is unimportant?)

Have you struggled to rightly understand the relationship between faith/works; if so, how has that impacted you?

4. How does the following quote from Dr. Douglas Moo relate to James 2:14-26?

"Genuine faith must go beyond the intellect to the will; it must affect our attitudes and actions as well as our 'beliefs'."

Where do we see this evident in the call of Jesus to become his disciple & throughout the totality of Scripture?

In such an intellectually-oriented society, do you find it hard for the truths we know to transform how we live?

Why is this the case, and how do we practically allow our knowledge to lead to internal [heart] transformation?

How do the Holy Spirit, The Word of God, and persistence in the spiritual disciplines help us in this endeavor?

5. Below are the "Today's Takeaways" from the sermon. Do any of these encourage, convict, or challenge you, & if so, how?

True faith in Jesus is more than mere assent!

True faith in Jesus requires all of the person!

Faith isn't only at the moment of conversion!

Faith is ongoing & leads to Christ-likeness!

Real faith results in transformational living!

Real faith in Jesus is evident in how we live!

WALKING BY FAITH WILL PRODUCE THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES!