

Faith in Action
James 2:16
By Russ Earl

Thesis: I want to allow the Bible to show what it means to live a faithful life.

Intro:

1. Faith is belief & commitment.
 - a. Belief alone does not constitute saving faith (**James 2:19**)
 - b. Faith is a belief that God is and that He means what He says (**Heb 11:6-7**).
2. James points out the practical side of faith.
 - a. Faith that isn't expressed in works is dead (**James 2:26**)
 - b. Faith alone does not justify man (**James 2:24**)
3. Let's look together at some areas in which faith must be active.

I. Faith must be active in coping with external trials

A. "Various Trials"

1. The trials may be in form of ridicule (**1 Pt 4:3-4**)
2. Sickness may be a trial (Job was tried by it)
3. Sorrow may test the spiritual strength of an individual (**2 Sam 12:19-23**)
4. Prosperity may be a trial (**Deut 31:20; Hosea 13:5-6**)

B. Trials can produce endurance or "staying power" (**James 1:3**)

1. When one loses control of his desires he lusts.
2. Lust leads to sin (**James 1:13**)
3. Sin produces death (**James 5:19-20**)

C. Temptation may be:

1. To sin by transgression of a prohibition or restriction of the perfect law of liberty (**1 Jn 3:4**)
2. To sin by merely failing to do what the law of liberty requires (**James 4:17**)

D. Faith must:

1. Enable one to identify the source of temptation (**James 1:13-14**)
2. Exercise self-control (**1 Cor 9:27**)
3. See the reward of withstanding sin (**1 Jn 5:4; 2:17**)

II. Faith must be active in a daily religion

A. Faith involves one's thinking about God

1. Thought is the raw material out of which character is made (**Pro 4:23, 23:7**)
2. Think of God as a giver (**James 1:17**)
3. Think of God as unchanging (**James 1:17**)
4. Think of God having a purpose for Christians (**James 1:18**, "first fruits")

B. Faith involves you thinking about God's word

1. The Bible is "the word of truth" (**James 1:18**)
2. There is power in God's word (**James 1:18**)
3. The Bible is the "perfect law of liberty" (**James 1:25**)
4. Obedience to the word is essential (**James 1:22-25**)

Conc:

1. The Christian lives by faith (**2 Cor 5:7**)
2. Faith is the Christian's strength in coping with external or internal problems (**1 Jn 5:4**).
3. God's word is the source of faith (**Rom 10:17**).

Hear

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Believe

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever + in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Repent

Luke 13:3

I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

Confess

Rom 10:9 — Rom 10:10

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Be baptized

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 22:16

And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

Remain Faithful

Revelation 2:10

Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.