

“Which Kind of Faith Do You Practice?” 2/20/11
James 2:14-26

James- Pressing on Toward Spiritual Maturity

The spiritually mature will: 1) be patient in trials/testing; 2) practice the truth (through loving others; 3) control the tongue; 4) be a peacemaker, not a trouble maker; 5) be prayerful in various challenges (Warren Wiersbe on book of James)

Charles Blondin- French tight rope walker came to US in 1855

“Faith is not believing in spite of evidence, but obeying in spite of consequences”-unknown

EPH 2:8-9; 2 COR 5:7; HEB 11:6 TALKER OR WALKER?

POINT 1- To be mature we must recognize that there is a faith that is DEAD

A. Dead faith is a faith that uses a lot of words, but has no ACTION
(2:14; works: James 1:1-2:13; Titus 1:16; Matt 15:7-8; Luke 3:7-14)

B. Dead faith is a faith that understands, but lacks OBEDIENCE
(2:15-17; 1 John 3:17-18; Ezek 36:26-27; Eph 2:10; 1 John 3:8-9)

“My dear children let us not love in word and tongue, but in deed and in truth” 1 John 3:18

Going God wants us to have more than just an Academic Faith!

Deeper **TALKER OR WALKER?**

POINT 2- To be mature we must recognize that there is a faith that is DEMONIC

A. A demonic faith has all the right theology, but lacks true CHANGE
(2:18-19; Mark 3:11-SoG; 5:7; Matt 8:29- torment; 13:20- with joy, falls)

Going God wants us to have more than just Superficial Faith!

Deeper
TALKER OR WALKER?

POINT 3- To be mature we must recognize that there is a faith that is DYNAMIC

A. A dynamic faith is one that that is never WORKLESS
(2:20-25; Genesis 15:6, Rom 4; Gen 22; Joshua 2, 6)

B. A dynamic faith is one that is active and will also be COMMENDED
(2:26; Hebrews 11:2- 40; it is not like a corpse which has no life)

Going God wants to have a faith that is living and active and obedient!

Deeper **TALKER OR WALKER?**

If you don't have this kind of faith that avoids sin, repents, works, obeys, when no one is looking, you need to examine yourself to see whether you are truly saved (2 Cor 13:5)

For next week: Please read James 3:1-12; Ephesians 4:29-5:7