



The Cause

community church

P.O. Box 9727, Brea, CA 92822-9727

tel: 909.592.2059 | fax: 909.592.0795 | web: www.faithinoc.com

“Faith Accompanied by Actions”

Gabbing about Life (Icebreaker)

Who is the best boss/manager you ever had and why?

Reading from the Book of Life (the Bible)

James 2:14-26

Grappling with Life’s Issues (Questions)

After challenging people to not just be hearers of the word but doers (see James 1:22-25), James moves into a more detailed explanation of what that means, specifically an exposition of faith in action.

Before moving on, one thing needs to be clarified. Some see this passage as incompatible with Paul’s teachings on faith. What this passage is demonstrating though is the fruit of faith (faith in action), while what Paul argues in most of his letters is the root of faith (justification by faith). In many ways they are not using the same definition of the words.

So what does it mean to have faith accompanied by actions?

First, when you serve others you move from being a hearer of the word to a doer of the word. Christians are called to serve. Read Galatians 5:13. How does that passage relate with the passage in James? People believe you when they see your words in action (see James 2:17).

Second, ministry is the way to press on towards your high calling and to mobilize yourself for something higher. Read Philippians 3:12-14. What areas do you need to “press on” in? Are you seeing the “fruit” of your faith in action? In this sense, works is not a criterion that we use in judging others; works is a criterion for judging ourselves. Remember, our faith expressed in actions is not us trying to earn our salvation – it is the fruit. Faith must be working; faith must be living (see James 2:18-19).

Third, when you serve others you are serving the Lord. Read John 12:26. How does this passage relate to the text in James? Faith and actions must work together. You can’t have one without the other or you will be out of balance.

Final Thought: Ministry builds your “spiritual bank account,” Read Matthew 6:19-20. There are always opportunities to serve and credit your “spiritual bank account.” Ask someone how you can get involved.

Praying through Life’s Challenges

Join together in praying for God to open up opportunities for ministry for each other.

Created: 1/28/05 by Joshua Reeve
Life Group Resource #5

“For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world...”
John 18:37 (NKJV)

