

## Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

## Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.

James 1:1-12

## DEAD FAITH VERSUS GENUINE FAITH

James 2:14-26

**Main Thought:** In James 2:14-26, we discover that a maturing follower of Jesus Christ has genuine faith which shows itself in actions.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ FAITH (vv 14-19)

1) A faith characterized by \_\_\_\_\_.

2) A faith characterized by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ FAITH (vv 20-24)

1) The example of \_\_\_\_\_.

2) The example of \_\_\_\_\_.

3) Is there a conflict between James and Paul when it comes to \_\_\_\_\_ by faith and works?

## **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS**

1. Read James 2:14-26. What is the theme of this passage?
2. What two questions does James start this section with? What do you think is the expected answer to each question?
3. How does James illustrate “dead faith” in verse 15-17?
4. What characteristic of “dead faith” is highlighted in the illustration?
5. What characteristic of “dead faith” is highlighted in verse 19?
6. To what is James referring when he says, “You believe there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder”? (See Duet. 6:4)
7. What kind of faith do demons have and why doesn't it save them? (See Matt. 8:29; Luke 4:34)
8. What warning does Paul give in 2 Cor. 13:5? What tests of faith do you see in James 1:1-2:24?

9. How does Abraham demonstrate genuine faith? (Read Genesis 15:1-6; 22:1-14; Hebrews 11:17-19)

10. How does Rahab demonstrate genuine faith? (Read Joshua 2:1-16)

11. Compare and contrast Abraham and Rahab. Why do you think James used these two people to illustrate genuine faith?

12. Verse 24 seems to be a direct contradiction to the Apostle's Paul's teaching that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone? Is this a contradiction? Why or why not? (See Romans 4:1-3; 3:28; Eph. 2:8-10; Phil. 2:12; Gal. 6:15) Consider to whom James was writing and to whom Paul was writing.

13. When you look at your own life, would you say you have “dead faith” or “genuine faith”? If it is genuine, what are some of the ways it is working out (becoming visible) in your actions?

14. What will you do this week to further act upon your faith?