

Week of November 20 - "Faith In Action" - Small Group Lesson Lesson 8

Connect

Should people be held accountable when failing to prevent a crime they are not directly involved in? Why or why not, and when and when not?

Verses - James 2:20-26 (CSB)

20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God. 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Study

1. How would faith that is demonstrated by works, be different than just having faith that there is a God? Explain the difference. What would living faith cause one to do, as opposed to having faith God exists? (James 2:19; Mark 9:23)

2. In addition to righteousness, what are some "impossible" things the Bible teaches a believer can do opposed to those without faith? (John 5:24; Matthew 6:33; Acts 2:38; Philippians 4:19; 1 Peter 4:10…)

☕ **DISCUSS 1:** What other examples from the Bible or one you have witnessed by someone, that demonstrated a living faith? What was the "impossible" they had to overcome? What was the outcome of their faith?

🏃 **APPLY 1:** What in your life do you believe is "impossible" right now? How are you to react to such logic through faith (whether you overcome it or not)? What does James say we are to do? (James 1:2-4)

3. How does the gospel enable us to have access to overcoming the *impossible*? What would the outcome be without the Good News? (Hebrews 4:16; Isaiah 55:6-7; Psalm 34:4)

☕ **DISCUSS 2:** How should the promises and faithfulness of God impact the works of your own faith? Do they? What are some of these Biblical promises?

🏃 **APPLY 2:** How can protect ourselves from pride when we are successful in our works? Additionally, how do we prevent idolizing our works and routines?

Share

What promises of God have you personally anchored your hope in - especially those that are important to you today? Why are these particular promises most relevant for you?

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray that we have a living faith, anchored in the savior Jesus Christ.
- Pray for us to live an abundant Christian life.
- Help needed for Kidz/Parents' check-in stations! - sumiko@tokyobaptist.org