

Living Faith ~ Pastor Alex Perednia ~ October 22, 2017

**#5 FAITHBOOK ~ A Living Faith?** – Pt. 1 (James 2:14-19, 25-26)

Examining what the book of James (*Faithbook*) teaches us about what faith is and how to strengthen it.

Opening: If a person's Facebook account is hacked and a fake profile is generated, it can cause problems! Sometimes thieves can even set-up fake social media profiles to defraud others. Being able to distinguish between a *real* and *fake* is vitally important. How do we distinguish between *fake* and *real* profiles of faith?

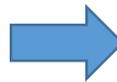
- ❶ The Claim: "If someone claims to have faith... Can **such faith** **save** him?" (2:14)
- ❷ The Criteria: "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no **deeds**? ... Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by **action** (*works*- ESV; *good deeds* - NLT), is dead... I will show you my faith by my **deeds**... faith without **deeds** is useless..." (2:14, 17, 18, 20)
- ❸ The Case Study: "Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food... but a brother... does nothing about it." (2:15-16)
- ❹ The Conclusion: What does James say about the relationship between faith & works? (2:17-20, 26)

**BIG IDEA: A living faith will be shown not only by our CREED but also by our DEEDS!**

- ❺ Our Example: Next week, we'll explore Abraham's example. (2:21-24) Today, let's consider how Rahab's (2:25) life illustrates a saving faith. (Heb. 11:31; Josh. 2:1-21; 6:22-23)
  - ▶▶ **"...Rahab the prostitute..."** Like Rahab, God finds us in our sin and unbelief.
  - ▶▶ **"considered righteous..."** Like Rahab, God offers us a way *to be right with Him*, a way of salvation through faith.
  - ▶▶ **"...for what she did..."** Like Rahab, our faith will be revealed in our deeds!

"I know that the LORD has given you this land... for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.... Give me a sure sign... that you will save us from death." (Joshua 2:9-13)

***Rahab's Creed***



"Rahab... had taken the two men and hidden them... she let them down by a rope through the window... she tied the scarlet cord in the window." (Joshua 2:4, 13, 15, 21)

***Rahab's Deeds***



**CONNECTION GROUPS** at Living Faith  
Sermon-based Group  
Wednesday, Oct. 25 @ 2PM and 7PM

- ❶ Have you ever seen someone's (or yours) social media account get hacked with a fake profile generated? Did anything ever happen? What can happen in a worst-case scenario? How do we distinguish between the *fake* and *real* in life? How about in our life of faith? How would you evaluate the faith profiles of Kevin and Jeff, as Alex presented them?
- ❷ Read James 2:14-26. Watch our video of the week by Francis Chan: <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/159923#5>.
- ❸ Let's examine what Jesus is and isn't teaching in this passage.
  - a In v. 14, what is the *claim* that James is examining?
  - b In v. 14, 17, 18 and 20, what is the *criteria* that James uses to evaluate a person's faith profile?
  - b In vv. 15-16, what is the *case study* he presents?
- ❹ In v. 17-19, what is James' *conclusion*? It is important to understand what James is and isn't saying about the relationship between faith and works. What are some possible misunderstandings?
- ❺ Why would James mention someone like Rahab as a prime example of faith? What do you know about Rahab and how did she get herself mentioned in the Bible? Isn't it a mistake for James to mention a prostitute as an example of good works? How does Rahab's *creed* match her *deeds*? How can she become our example too?

MEMORY VERSE: James 2:14