



For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 2 Timothy 4:3-4 (NLT)

- We allow **influence** on our lives without a relationship.

A living faith...

- A living faith **stands** out.
- A living faith **steps** out.
- A living faith **speaks** out.
- A living faith **works** out.

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead. James 2:26

- God's purpose for us is to have a **growing faith** in us.

For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith. 1 John 5:4

Faith is:

- Faith is putting our **confidence** in God, though we don't see Him or understand His ways.

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

- Faith is **acting** in a way that shows our confidence in God.

Dear brothers and sisters, what's the use of saying you have faith if you don't prove it by your actions? That kind of faith can't save anyone! James 2:14

- Living faith is more than **believing** in God.

Isn't it obvious that faith and works are yoked partners, that faith expresses itself in works? That the works are "works of faith"? The full meaning of "believe" in the Scripture sentence, "Abraham believed God and was set right with God," includes his action. It's that weave of believing and acting that got Abraham named "God's friend." Is it not evident that a person is made right with God not by a barren faith but by faith fruitful in works? James 2:22-24 (MSG)

- A living faith seeks to **know** God.

And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)

Choices that make for a living faith:

- We choose to live with **love** and **gratitude** for Jesus.

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

- We choose not to take God **for granted**.

God made my life complete when I placed all the pieces before him. When I got my act together, he gave me a fresh start. Now I'm alert to God's ways; I don't take God for granted. Every day I review the ways he works; I try

not to miss a trick. I feel put back together, and I'm watching my step. God rewrote the text of my life when I opened the book of my heart to his eyes. Psalms 18:20-24 (MSG)

A check-up question:

Are you still moved by God's **love** for you?

- We choose to **persevere** through our trials.

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. James 1:2-3

- We choose to **obey** God when we don't feel like it.

What is more pleasing to the Lord: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice... 1 Samuel 15:22

Application Steps:

- Decide **now** to choose a living faith.

- Dig deep to **develop** a living faith.

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by God's Word. Romans 10:17

And remember, it is a message to obey, not just to listen to. If you don't obey, you are only fooling yourself. For if you just listen and don't obey, it is like looking at your face in a mirror but doing nothing to improve your appearance. James 1:22-23 (MSG)

- Do **something** with God.

"The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love." – Galatians 5:6



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- Why do you believe that it is important to have a living faith in our lives?
- How does faith allow us to be a light in a dark world?
- What is the difference between a living faith and a dead faith?
- When you think of someone with living faith, what are the qualities that stand out to you?
- What does it mean to you to "act in a way that shows my confidence in God"?
- Do you believe that you are capable of having a living faith?
- How does choosing to live with love and gratitude form a living faith in us?
- Can you think of other choices we can make to help us have a living faith?
- How does taking God for granted undermine our faith?
- Have you ever had to trust God when you didn't understand what He was doing?
- How does obeying God when we don't feel like it develop a living faith in us?
- What are some ways we can "dig deeper" to develop a living faith?
- Is there something you have been afraid to do, that you need to do, that would increase your faith?

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Today's Talk..



Nurturing a Living Faith

Sunday, June 1st, 2025

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