



● Bcuz a danger for believers is we can **believe** in Jesus and not **become** more like Jesus... Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved,... Acts 16:31

19 Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. Acts 3:19

9 If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—9 not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the actions prescribed by the Law. Romans 3:28
14 What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? James 2:14

Paul Answers the question: **How** are we saved?

26 Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works. James 2:26

James Answers the question: What does **genuine faith** look like?

14 What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? 15 Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, 16 and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? 17 So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. James 2:14–17

How to spot genuine Christian faith:

● Genuine faith doesn't just acknowledge a need, it responds to **people in need**.

17 If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? 1 John 3:17

Action Step:

● This week, intentionally **meet** one practical need for one person without expecting anything in return.

18 Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds." 19 You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. 20 How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless? James 2:18–20

● Genuine faith doesn't just know Jesus, it **obeys** Jesus.

21 "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. Matthew 7:21

25 Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. Galatians 5:25

Ask yourself: What has Jesus told me to obey that I've been **negotiating**?

Action Step:

● Identify one area where you've been **negotiating** with.

21 Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. 23 And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." He was even called the friend of God. 24 So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone. James 2:21–24

● Genuine faith **trusts** God enough to take the next step.

8 It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going. Hebrews 11:8

Action Step:

● Write down one thing you know God has already told you to do and **take a step** within 24 hours.

25 Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. 26 Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works. James 2:25–26

● Genuine faith becomes visible through **surrender**.

17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! 2 Corinthians 5:17

Action Step:

● Invite one mature Christian you trust to honestly ask you what Jesus is **challenging** in your life and where you need to **surrender** more fully..

VISION:

**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.
- What's the difference between believing in Jesus and becoming like Jesus?
- Why is it important that salvation is by grace, not by works?
- How can we tell when our faith has become "dead faith"?
- When you see someone in need, what usually keeps you from responding?
- What has Jesus asked you to obey that you've been negotiating?
- Can someone know a lot about Jesus without truly following Jesus? Why?
- What does your obedience reveal about the strength of your faith?
- What is one "next step" you sense God asking you to take?
- Where is Jesus asking you to surrender more fully right now?
- If someone watched your life for a week, what evidence would they see that you follow Jesus?

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Today's Talk..



How To Spot Genuine Christian Faith

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