

## WHAT FAITH IS NOT!

Hebrews 11:1-6

INTRODUCTION: In Hebrews 11:6, the Bible tells us how to please God. Mankind through the centuries of time has known that there is a God and has had a desire to please God. The religions of the world are man's attempt to please God. Some have tried to please God by making idols they conceived to look like God. Others have tried to please God by following various rules of laws hoping their good deeds outweigh their bad deeds in order to please God. But the Bible makes it very clear that there is only one way to please God: Hebrews 11:6; Romans 14:23. So our question for tonight is: "How do I know that I am exercising the kind of faith that pleases God?" James 2:14 tells us what faith is not!

### I. FAITH IS NOT SOMETHING YOU SAY!

James is saying you can say the right words and still be lost! Real faith is not just saying "I am a Christian." There really is a difference in God's eyes between a professor of faith and a possessor of faith. Matthew 7:21-23. Jesus is saying our faith must be backed up with action.

### II. FAITH ISN'T SOMETHING YOU FEEL!

A lot of people equate emotions with faith. We are not against emotions but we dare not base our faith on our emotions. James 2:14-17. True faith is not just sentimentality. True faith is compassionate and that means we feel with others what they are feeling: However godly compassion goes beyond sympathy to empathy and then to action on behalf of the hurting one. We cannot make a difference that will make the world news tonight but true faith says I can make a difference to someone and does what it takes to make that difference.

### III. FAITH ISN'T JUST THINKING!

James 2:18. If all your faith is just talk with no actions it is a dead faith. Faith is not just an intellectual exercise. James is saying if you say you have faith but cannot show it by deeds it is just intellectual and not real. Philippians 2:12-13. Our faith is invisible to man but man can see the results of true living faith in our lives. If we have true saving faith the power of God is going to change our lives and our actions. 2 Corinthians 5:17.

### IV. FAITH ISN'T JUST SOMETHING THAT YOU BELIEVE!

James 2:19. So many people say "I believe in God!" The Bible says even the devil believes that and he shatters because he knows his end. Psalm 14:1. Our faith is not just intellectual belief. You can miss heaven by 18 inches having God in your head but not Jesus Christ in your heart. Real faith is active, not just something you believe but something you do. James 2:20. You see the question is not "Will man have faith"; all men have faith, but the real question is "What kind of faith do you have?" Faith that does not result in obedience to God is not saving faith. Ephesians 2:8-10: God has given all those who truly trust in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior work to do and they will desire to do those works for Christ glory. Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 2:12-13.