

Pastor's Pen

James 2:18 - But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

The youth at Grace Harvest are working through the book of James on Wednesday nights. This past week I had the privilege of teaching James 2:14-26 and during my time of study I had a moment that really struck me. This moment led to an illustration which led to a word-picture that I am still considering. See earlier in the week, as I was letting the lesson marinate in my mind, my daughter started a short summer soccer camp with some friends. It was a very hot day, just after a heavy rain, so the air was thick with humidity. After a grueling, 45 minute practice, my daughter was asked to put her hand on her head so that she could receive a small, dime-sized smiling sticker on the top of her sweaty hand. She proudly ran over to her mother and I, to show off her newly earned spoils, but just as soon as she arrived the sticker had been lost in the muddy sod. Distraught my daughter began to get upset, only to have my wife offer a temporary baby shark tattoo when we got home in order to make her reward more permanent.

This episode had me thinking about how without the sticker or baby shark skin insignia that my daughter, after a well-earned bath would no longer have any physical representation of her exertion. Then it hit me, we cannot see the faith or trust that one has in Jesus either. We cannot empirically see how much someone loves God without it being accompanied by some type of proof or action. Trust is something that is invisible, whose existence can only be proven by its' effects.

Much like how the wind is colorless but you know it's there when you see the leaves dancing on the sidewalk. We can tell people all we want that we love and trust Jesus, but if our actions never prove this love and trust then are we really sure it exists? It is impossible to show someone your faith apart from your works, I believe James here is forcing all of us to examine ourselves and truly evaluate how our actions between where our real trust and love lies. We all we do is for the pleasure and delight of ourselves apart from the will of God, then our true allegiance is revealed.

How about you? I would encourage each of us to take time this week and see who our actions tell us that we actually love and trust. In the areas, where it is something other than God, I pray that we would have the courage to repent quickly and take the most necessary actions to trust and love of God.

Pastor Jamie Ezzell

Quote of the Week

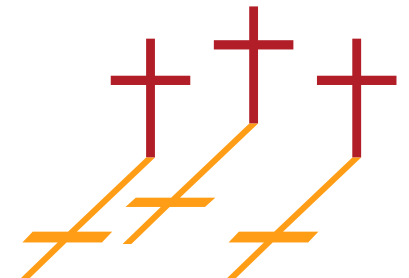
"That faith which never evidences itself by good works is a dead faith, and a faith that will never save a soul. If grace does not make us differ from other men, it is not the grace which God gives his elect."

-Spurgeon, 'The Great Assize'

Grace Gems

Saving Faith
By J.C. Ryle

He who truly believes in Christ — **works godly WORKS**. It is written, that "faith works by love" (Gal. 5:6). True belief will never make a man idle, or allow him to sit still, contented with his own religion. It will stir him to do acts of love, kindness, and charity, according as he sees opportunity. It will constrain him to walk in the steps of his Master, who "went about doing good." In one way or another, it will make him work. The works that he does may attract no notice from the world. They may seem *trifling* and *insignificant* to many people. But they are not forgotten by Him who notices a cup of cold water given for His sake. Where there is no working love — there is no faith. A lazy, selfish professing Christian — has no right to regard himself as a genuine believer!



Weekly Gatherings



Bible Classes

New Testament
Sunday School
Sunday Morning @ 9AM



Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM
Men's Bible Study



Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM @ Royall's
Every other Thursday @ 7PM
@ Patrick's & Cox's



Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team
and forgot to sign up, please contact the
team leader at the appropriate email
address.



Youth Study

Wednesdays @ 6:30PM
Youth Study



Service Times

Sunday Service 10:30AM
Children's Church @ 10:30AM

Giving from service on 07/11/2021

General Offering	10,314.20
Building Fund	981.20
Uganda	100.00
Total	\$11,395.40

Attendance	202
Sunday School	134
Online	15

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance@ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
Security-security@ghbcva.org



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