

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

JAMES

These questions are for the **July 19, 2015 Sermon**, "Authentic Faith, Part 2." Please read the sermon passage (James 2:20-26) together out loud.

Sermon Outline:

AUTHENTIC FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST IS . . .

1. **Illustrated in the actions of a Jewish Patriarch** (20-23) (see also Genesis 15:5; Genesis 22)
 - A. Abraham was declared righteous as God gave him "a faith that works."
 - B. He submitted to God's authority even when it didn't make sense and he couldn't see the end.
 - C. He held on to God rather than holding on to the gifts which flow from God.
2. **Illustrated in the actions of a Gentile Prostitute** (24-25) (see also Joshua 2)
 - A. Rahab heard about God's work of deliverance when Israel came out of Egypt (40 years prior).
 - B. Rahab heard about God's work of deliverance as they came to the Promised Land (recently).
 - C. She believed that Israel's God is the one and true God, and acted in faith before him (Josh 2:11)
3. **Clearly defined: The kind of faith that does not "work," does not work** (26)
 - A. We cannot merely "declare" that we have faith with our own words. (see also James 2:19)
 - B. Our faith must produce actions of submissive obedience to the Lord.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: How has your character (patience, forgiveness, love, self-control, truth-telling and contentment, for instance) changed since you trusted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? Which character trait took the most work? Which required the most submission?
2. Based on #1, above: Abraham knew that God would be faithful even when his circumstance did not seem to allow for it. Hebrews teaches us that he reasoned that if Isaac would die, God would somehow bring him back to life (Hebrews 11:17-19). How can God be faithful even in your hardest trial? Can he keep his promises even if your "worst case" comes to be?
3. Based on #2, above: Rahab was faced with either obeying her earthly king or the King of kings when she hid the spies. Her faith led her to civil disobedience and even treason. How might Christians today learn from her example?
4. Based on #2, above: Rahab could have reasoned that her obedience would be short-lived (her city would soon be destroyed) or insignificant. Yet she chose to obey and God saved her whole family. How has someone else's bold faith radically changed your life? How does this encourage you?
5. Based on #3, above: Those whose faith produces no change have a dead and useless faith. So some who claim faith are not truly converted. Discuss. Pray.