

8/26/18 | James 2: Faith, Belief & Actions



"It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy." —Romans 9:16 | NIV

DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever said you were going to do something and then didn't? How valuable were your words at that point?
2. What do you think of the "actions speak louder than words" phrase?
3. Consider this quote. What does it mean? Is it true? What does it have to do with James 2?

...good actions, or faith in Christ
... it does seem to me like asking
which blade in a pair of scissors is
most necessary.
—CS Lewis
4. What stuck out to you from James 2? What stuck out to you from the sermon?

Earning a Gift

5. Read Romans 3:27-28 and Galatians 2:16. Can we ever observe enough of the law to justify ourselves? What if we observe the whole law perfectly? (See all of Romans 3 for more insight.)
6. Read Romans 4:13. If God's promises didn't come through the law, why did He give the law? (See Galatians 3 for more insight.)
7. Read John 3:16. Are we earning heaven by believing in God? Why or why not?
8. Read Romans 9:10-21. What part of salvation is the responsibility of the believer, then?

Deeds

9. If all those verses are true about not being able to earn God's grace, why are deeds so important?

10. Are James 2:24 and Ephesians 2:8-9 in direct opposition?

11. What does Romans 6:15-18 say about good deeds? What does Ephesians 2:10 say about good deeds? What does 1 John 1:6 say about good deeds? What does 1 Peter 2:12 say about good deeds?

12. Read Matthew 21:28-32. Which of the two brothers showed faith? How does this parable highlight the differences between words and deeds?

13. What have you learned from studying faith this week? Is it still faith if the faith is only thoughts and words... with no action?

TAKEAWAY: What is one area where you need to put your faith into action?