Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. May 13, 2018

**Is Your Faith Dead or Alive?**

James 2:14-16

**Key truth**: “Alive” faith in Jesus Christ produces works and if it doesn’t you should question that type of faith.

**The Theological Tension between Paul and James:**

1. Paul is speaking of how God justifies sinners.

 A. The root of salvation is faith alone. Ephesians 2:8-9

2. James is speaking of how sinners express they are justified.

 A. The fruit of salvation is faith accompanied by works.

 Ephesians 2:10, Philippians 1:6, 2:12-13

**The Question:**

1. Can just a profession of faith in Jesus Christ save us?

 A. The issue is “What Kind of faith” – This is a person claiming

 faith with no verifiable proof of obedience.

**The Answer Within Illustrations:**

1. Empty words with no action. Praying with no intentions to

 help alleviate the burden = Dead Faith. 1 John 3:16-18

2. Intellectual knowledge with no obedience = Demon Faith.

3. Trust and Obedience = Demonstration of Faith.

 A. Abraham obeyed God and offered up his son. Genesis 22:1-14,

 Hebrews 11:17-20

 B. Rahab received and helped God’s people – Joshua 2:11,

 Hebrews 11:31

 4. Body and spirit = Definitive Faith.

 A. You need both to sustain life

 B. Faith and works equal genuine faith.

 C. We cannot be in a loving relationship with God without

 obedience to his commands.

**Taking it Beyond the Walls:** Demonstrate authentic faith by loving one another and the community.

**CONNECTION GROUP HOMEWORK**

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Read Matthew 23: How does Jesus’ response to the Pharisees in Matthew 23 further illustrate how we can have faith but miss the mark on having a saving faith?

What do the following verses teach us about the difference between knowledge and obedience according to God?

Luke 6:46-49

Hebrews 11:1-7

1 John 2:3-5

Read Matthew 25:31-46. How would you explain the message of the sheep and goats in your own words?

What did Jesus say that the sheep did? How did the sheep respond to the King?

On the other hand, what was the first thing Jesus said to the goats? Why were they condemned to eternal fire?

How are the sheep (the first group) and the goats (the second group) similar? How are they different?

Read Hebrews 11:17-19,31: What are the lessons from Abraham’s and Rahab’s examples?