

God Time Day 1: More Than Mere Belief



Read John 5:24.

Truly I [Jesus] tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life.

Underline the words “hear” and “believes.”



Circle the phrase “has passed from death to life.”

Jesus makes it clear that faith in God, hearing and believing in the good news of the Gospel, is all a person needs for salvation.

But, as James will remind us, the word “believe” means more than simple knowledge. It’s a belief that requires trust leading to visible application.



Pray, giving thanks for God’s salvation through faith. Ask for God’s help to have the kind of faith that believes and trusts.

God Time Day 2: True Faith Is Visible



Read James 2:14-17 on page 4.

Underline the word “faith” in the passage.



Circle the word “works” in the passage.

Yesterday, we began by first establishing that we are saved by faith alone. We ended with the thought that faith is a “belief that includes trust.” Belief without trust is the kind of belief that never moves beyond academic knowledge.

When belief includes trust, academic knowledge becomes applied knowledge – applied to how we live.



Reread James 2:17.

In the same way faith, if it does not have works, is dead by itself.

If we have faith – a belief that includes trust – and that belief is applied to our lives, it becomes visible in our behaviors and choices.



Pray for God to reveal how your faith is visible in your life.

God Time Day 3: True Faith is Active



We have been exploring what it means to have faith. We began with the understanding that faith is first a belief that includes trust. Then, we discussed how *trust* means that faith is applied and visible in our lives.



Now, read James 2:18-19.

¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without works, and I will show you faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that God is one. Good! Even the demons believe—and they shudder.

As James goes on, he digs even deeper and looks at what it means to have “belief” that is only knowledge-based. He reminds us that “*even the demons*” have such belief.

Draw a box around the phrase, “*and they shudder.*”

You might say that God is the Lord of your life, but let’s assess that belief with a few questions:



○ When good things happen, is your first instinct to give God glory or take pride in your own accomplishments?

○ When faced with trials, do you surrender to God’s will, or do you want Him to bend to your expectations?

○ When facing a choice, do you first consider what God’s will is, or the path that will get you what you want?

Unfortunately, many claim to be followers of Christ but spend most of their lives ignoring God and pursuing selfish ambitions. And they do so without a single “*shudder.*”

Knowledge is not enough! Having faith means we should fully trust God and allow Him to have an active role in our lives.



Pray for God to show you how He wants to be actively involved in your life today. Ask for humility to trust in His Lordship in all things.

God Time Day 4: God Focused



Read James 2:20-25 on page 4

Underline the word “*faith*” in the passage.



Next, circle the word “*works*” in the passage.

Now reread verse 22.

You see that faith was active together with his works, and by works, faith was made complete.

As we look at this passage, we begin to see the importance of both faith and works. In both stories mentioned by James, the people were obedient to God’s will, knowing that it could cost them greatly. Despite the risks involved, they put their trust in the goodness of God.



As we have been looking at faith for the past few days, we know that faith is more than knowledge or belief. Rather, faith means having trust that moves you to visibly apply the knowledge you’ve gained. Faith also means focusing on God’s will over our own. It means trusting that God wants what is best, even if we don’t fully understand how.

Having faith that is active and God-focused should be a part of our everyday lives. Listening to God’s voice, hearing what God wants for us, and then acting on it should be a regular, normal practice.



When was the last time you experienced something or encountered a situation where you felt like you should act, but instead you ignored it?

What excuse did you use for not acting?

Alternatively, what might have resulted if you had acted?



Pray for God to give you the boldness to step out in faith.

God Time Day 5: A Life-Giving Faith



Read James 2:26 on page 4.

Now read John 10:10.

A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.



This week we have been talking about having faith that is visible, active, and God-focused. Works do not save us; we are saved by the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ. But our faith in God should be obvious by our works. In other words, faith is like sunblock: it has no effect if you do not apply it.

People most often struggle with taking their faith beyond belief and into a world of applied activity because they believe that being obedient to God means missing out on the “good things” of life. But is that true or false?

Underline the word “*life*” in John 10:10 above.



Circle the word “*abundance*” in John 10:10 above.

You may have heard the saying, “He who dies with the most toys, wins.” The reality is that he who dies with the most toys is still dead and is going to face judgment before God. Do you really think, at the end of your life, you are going to wish you had sinned more, been more selfish, or ruined more relationships in the pursuit of your own ambitions? Living a life of faith is not about denying yourself the good things of this world. Instead, it’s about embracing the better things that God has for us.



What sin has God been asking you to let go of?

What is one way God has been calling you to apply your faith and put it into practice?



What is the first step you need to take toward living a life of true faith?
