October 8, 2023

**Disciple: What it Means to Follow Jesus**

**Saving Faith: Part 4**

**Acts 8 / James 2**

• This is God’s Word.

• It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction.

• It has God for its author,

• salvation for its end,

• and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter.

• It is the supreme source of truth

• for what we believe

• and how we live.

**A man named Simon had been a sorcerer there for many years, amazing the people of Samaria and claiming to be someone great. Everyone, from the least to the greatest, often spoke of him as “the Great One—the Power of God.” They listened closely to him because for a long time he had astounded them with his magic. But now the people believed Philip’s message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized. Then Simon himself BELIEVED and was baptized. He began following Philip wherever he went, and he was amazed by the signs and great miracles Philip performed…When Simon saw that the Spirit was given when the apostles laid their hands on people, he offered them money to buy this power. “Let me have this power, too,” he exclaimed, “so that when I lay my hands on people, they will receive the Holy Spirit!” But Peter replied, “May your money be destroyed with you for thinking God’s gift can be bought! You can have no part in this, for your heart is not right with God. Repent of your wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive your evil thoughts, for I can see that you are full of bitter jealousy and are held captive by sin.” Acts 8:9-23**

**Not everyone who believes in Jesus (Has Faith)**

**is saved.**

**What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. Now someone may argue, “Some people have faith; others have good deeds.” But I say, “How can you show me your faith if you don’t have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds.” You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. How foolish! Can’t you see that faith without good deeds is useless? Don’t you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.” He was even called the friend of God. So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone. Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works. James 2:14-26**

**James Speaks of Three Kinds of Faith**

* **Dead Faith**

**So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. James 2:17**

**Faith is more than a verbal CONFESSION.**

**What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? James 2:14**

**Faith is more than an emotional FEELING.**

**Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? James 2:15-16**

**James says SHOW ME your faith.**

**Now someone may argue, “Some people have faith; others have good deeds.” But I say, “How can you show me your faith if you don’t have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds.” James 2:18**

* **Demonic Faith**

**You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. James 2:19**

**Faith is more than intellectual BELIEF.**

**Many people are going to miss heaven by 12 inches!**

* **Saving Faith**

**Fool! When will you ever learn that "believing" is useless without *doing…*Faith that does not result in good deeds is not real faith. James 2:20 (TLB)**

* **Faith is DOING.**

**Our faith is not DETERMINED by what we do, but it is DEMONSTRATED by what we do.**

**Notice the Process**

**For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works… Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)**