

# Hope-full When Faith Is Tested

Series: ~~A Hopeless Life~~ – A Hopeful Life

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**Scripture:** James 2:14-19

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? <sup>15</sup>Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup>If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?

<sup>17</sup>In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

<sup>18</sup>But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. <sup>19</sup>You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

## Group Session

### Opening Questions

The summary of James is that "If you are saved, your life will surely show it." Do you think most believers lives show it? Why or why not?

### Discussing the Scripture & Life

1. Read the focus passage, James 2:14-19. How would you summarize what the James is saying in this passage?
2. What is the worst example of walk and talk not matching that you have ever experienced? How do you figure that persons relationship with Christ... lack of salvation or lack of maturity?
3. Is it healthy to question our salvation? How can we know for sure that we really are followers of Christ? What should a person do who has sincere questions?
4. Genuine faith is demonstrated by what we do and not just what we say. Where do you struggle most on the "doing" side of this equation?
5. Hebrews 11:6 says that "without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." In what ways are you showing faith in your life?
6. How much does your faith depend on your comfort level? What is the relationship between comfort and Christianity? Is our faith hindered by our comfort?
7. Genuine faith leads with the heart; not the head. How often do we have to have things figured out in our mind before we trust God? Is there any faith in that?

8. This passage says that the demons believe in God and in His son Jesus. What does that say about the kind of belief we need to have in Christ for salvation.
9. God justifies the person whose faith leads to actions. Would you fit into this category?

### **Closing Challenge**

What is God calling you to do this week as a result of this study? Is there an area that you need to exercise your faith?