



“*Beli(e)ving*”

Faith is Now
James 2:14-17

Now is when a believer’s faith is to be :

I. **Redemptive** – “can faith save him” (v. 14)

A faith that is :

A. **Profitable** – “*What doth it profit*”

B. **Possessed** – “*man say he hath faith*”

C. **Paired** – “*hath not works*”

II. **Responsive** – “be naked, and destitute” (v. 15-16)

A faith that invests in making a :

A. **Discovery** – “*If a brother or sister be*”

B. **Dialogue** – “*you say unto them*”

C. **Difference**– “*what doth it profit*”

III. **Regnant** – “Even so faith” (v. 17)

exercising authority, rule, or influence

A faith that influences Our :

A. **Labor** – “*hath not works*”

B. **Life** – “*is dead*”

C. **Light** – “*being alone*”

Matt 5:16 - Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Conclusion:

Hebrews 5:11-6:1 tells us what is the Biblical Description of a Christian that’s not living their

Faith (Carnal Christian) :

1. Refusal to grow for a period of time
2. A lack of skill in the use of the “word of righteousness”
3. Able to absorb only milk and not solid food
4. Spiritual dullness due to lack of “meat” or serious Bible Study

A brand new lawnmower

What good is a brand new lawnmower if you don't ever start it up?

What does it profit you if you see the grass growing taller and weeds and all that stuff and you refuse to use your mower ...It doesn't.

What does it matter that the lawnmower is a great lawnmower and much better than the one that died on you last year if you don't ever start it? The two lawnmowers have the same usefulness and effect on your lawn.

A soldier and his training = faith and its possession

- > Soldier can do incredible things because of his training...what was he trained for...?
- > What good does it do for a soldier to be trained to rescue hostages....but never is called upon to do so...will it save any hostages?
- > What good does it do if the soldier that is trained to rescue hostages ...refuses to respond to a need to rescue hostages...what good is his training...no good to those who need him because he keeps the training to himself alone.

Illustration of Kylie or a baby's legs:

At first we just notice that they have them. Then we begin to wonder when they will use them to crawl. Then we want them to walk. What if they walk for a few times and then refuse to walk anymore. We might wonder what is wrong with their legs? Are they healthy or capable of walking? When do we begin to wonder if it is defiance? Maybe the baby refuses to use their good legs God has given them to walk as God has created them to walk.

If you are a believer here today:

You have been saved to :

See the Lord mow down the weeds and high grass in your life as you put your faith to work.

If you are a believer here today:

You have been saved to :

Rescue the perishing --- Don't deny your calling

If you are a believer here today:

You have been saved to :

Walk in newness of life. Making great strides to become more like your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Faith = Believing, really believing what God says

Three Key Words:

1. **Profit** = Use or advantage or Benefit or Effect

2. **Save** = Speaks to an audience of Christians about how to live and makes works a condition for salvation. Not eternal salvation but the saving of our natural life to make it worth something to God, others, and ourselves.

- Cp with James 1:21; 5:19-20; Matthew 16:25-27 – Jesus speaking to believers(disciples) Speaks of works saving ...obviously not eternal salvation same phrase in Matthew as in James 1:21 “Save Your Lives”

3. **Dead** = ineffective, unproductive ...dead asleep, dead drunk ...not really dead but not conscious or able to do much of anything.(Romans 7:8-9 (sin); Romans 8:10 (body or flesh))

EXEGESIS

V. 14

- What doth it profit? = What good is it?
- My Brethren = 6th of 15 times that we are reminded that this is written to those who are believers already.
- Says he has faith = Says he believes...in the whole Bible...In the new nature...In the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit...In the need of everyone to know Jesus
- Can faith save him? = ***Faith can't save him, Can it? Expected answer: No, it can't!***

V. 15

- If ...a small if
- A brother or sister = fellow Christian
- **Naked or destitute of daily food = real need that I can supply**
- Can faith save him? Cp with James 1:21; 5:19-20; Matthew 16:25-27 – Jesus speaking to believers(disciples) Speaks of works saving ...obviously not eternal salvation same phrase in Matthew as in James 1:21 “Save Your Lives”

v. 16

- Any of you = fellow believers
- Say unto them = those in need
- Depart in peace ...be warmed and filled =
Have a great day! Enjoy your food and housing. Corporately Hope everything at the church turns out great...Have a good time at Awana...Have a great VBS...Have a great Servant Summit...Have a great Sunday School hour...Have a great Children's Christmas program...
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- What doth it profit? = Repeat of first words of the passage...What Good is it?
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v. 17

- Even so faith = that's how hollow your faith is when you talk a game but won't bring it, so others can benefit
- If it has not works = not working or fulfilling its purpose.....i.e.

Ephesians 2:8-10:

- *For by grace are ye saved by faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

- *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should work in them.*