

# **SERMON**

**DATE: Saturday/Sunday, September 22-23, 2018**

**SERIES TITLE: WHAT EVERY CHRISTIAN NEEDS TO KNOW**

**SERMON TITLE: How to Make Your Faith Real**

**SCRIPTURE: James 2:14-26**

[14] What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?

[15] Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food.

[16] If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?

[17] In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

[18] But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

[19] You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

[20] You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?

[21] Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?

[22] You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.

[23] And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.

[24] You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

[25] In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?

[26] As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

**September 22-23, 2018**

**Title: How to Make Your Faith Real**

*Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

**1. Your works make worship, belief, and trust real and tangible.**

- James emphasizes faith and works – not works instead of faith.
- Our works are like salt and light.

**2. Your works witness to your neighbors.**

- Your neighbors can't see your faith, they can only see your works.

**3. Your works magnify God.**

**4. Your works show that Christ is alive and working in our world.**

- Faith without works exists among demons but not among Christians.
- This proves the fallacy of “it doesn't matter what you believe as long as you believe something”.

# Lagniappe

In my opinion, the **Discovery Class** is one of the most important parts of First Baptist Church. Our Discovery Class is for everyone, but we particularly gear it for new members and those who want to explore membership.

We started the Discovery Class more than 20 years ago. During this time more than 2000 people participated. We have seen significant effects for the ministry and growth of First Baptist Church through this group meeting.

What makes the Discovery Class so important?

**First**, the Discovery Class is an open door to our church. We use the Discovery Class to show who we are and what we are about. Many people become members of FBC as a direct result of the Discovery Class. In fact, many people join FBC at the conclusion of the class.

**Second**, the Discovery Class gives us a time to discuss values, beliefs, and emphases of the church. This helps us “all get on the same page”. I see the Discovery Class as a significant contributor to the unity and harmony of the church.

**Third**, the Discovery Class helps make “the church smaller”, meaning that it keeps it from being impersonal or intimidating. The Discovery Class helps make the church warmer, more intimate, and more relational. New members and prospective members get to meet pastors, deacons, and volunteers. It is indispensable in what it does for our church.

Would you consider joining us tonight – Sunday **September 23** - or at our next discovery class **November 4**?

Joining us in this group will help you and help the church as we seek to reach our community for Christ.