

THE BOOK OF JAMES

“The Demons Also Believe”

Scripture Reading: JAMES 2:18-19

-) **SLIDES 1-6**. Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7**. Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 8**. Today we resume our expository study in the Book of JAMES. This is week #13. I have titled today’s message *“The Demons Also Believe”* (2:19).
-) **SLIDE 9**. EPHESIANS 2:8-9. What do the Scriptures teach us? We know this. We are saved by grace through faith. Let’s call it saving faith—it’s the type faith that saves us. It’s not like human faith which we have when we apply the brakes in our car or drink the water from the faucet. We have faith that the brakes will work and the water is safe for drinking.
-) I said two weeks ago that there are four components that make up saving faith. Let’s quickly review what we have learned up to this point about the first two components to saving faith.
-) **SLIDE 10**. The first component of saving faith is the **KNOWLEDGE** of the **TRUTH**. False teaching and lies about soteriology never saved anyone. The truth is the only thing that will ever set anyone free.
-) **SLIDE 11**. Saving faith first processes this knowledge of truth through the **MIND**. ROMANS 10:17. Faith comes by hearing and hearing through the Word of God.
-) **SLIDE 12**. The second component of saving faith is **BELIEF**. A person can know something that is true (step #1), but never believe it. Saving faith says we believe in the truth of the knowledge we have heard.

-) **SLIDE 13.** Saving faith then processes belief through the **HEART.** We must engage the heart in this process of saving faith. ROMANS 10:8-10.
-) So the process so far looks like this. STEP #1. We know the truth in our mind about what is necessary for saving faith. But that alone cannot save us. STEP #2. We believe that truth in our heart about what is necessary for saving faith. The mind and the heart are now engaged in this process. But even these two components cannot save us.
-) **SLIDE 14.** JAMES 2:19. The demons know and the demons believe the truth about Jesus. And we know that the demons are not saved, nor will they ever be.
-) I gave today's message the title "*The Demons Also Believe*" because if this is as far as a person goes with their saving faith, then this makes that person no different than the demons.
-) Obviously saving faith, the faith that James is talking about in our Scripture text today, must go beyond knowing the truth and believing the truth. There are two more components to saving faith. Today we'll talk about component #3 in saving faith.
-) **SLIDE 15.** The third component of saving faith is **TRUST.** We trust in what we believe. We believe in what we know. And we must know the truth. And trust is what separates the believer from the demons as we will see here shortly.
-) **SLIDE 16.** Saving faith then processes trust through the **WILL.** We must engage the will in this process of saving faith.
-) Here's an example of how trust and engaging the will work together in this process by giving you a human example.
-) I have a brake pedal in my car. I am told that pedal will stop my car when I press on it. I have that knowledge. Other people have told me that if I press on that pedal my car will stop. And I believe them.

-) But I will never know if what I know and believe is true until I do what? Try it out. Press on that pedal.
-) So, I go down Beech Grove Road in my car at 55mph and I approach the intersection. There is only one way I will ever find out if the knowledge I have told and the belief that I have about this pedal are true. What do I do next?
-) I engage my will. I press on the brake pedal. My car stops. I now trust what I have been told. If I never press on the brake pedal, I will never know if what I was told is true or not.
-) Here's another secular example, only this one will look at trust and will in a negative way.
-) From 2007 until 2015 I owned a white 1995 Lincoln Town Car. I really liked that car but it had one big problem. The power windows. In the 8 years I owned that car, I had seven power window mechanisms go out. When I gave the car away, only one window worked. The driver's window.
-) I knew this button to my left made the windows go up and down. I believed those buttons made the windows go up and down. But I did not do what? I did not trust that at any given moment in time that the window would successfully go all the way down and then all the way back up again.
-) Because of my experience with a poorly designed mechanism, I never exercised my will in opening or closing those windows ever again. Why? Because I couldn't trust if they would work again. So, they always stayed up.
-) Knowledge. Belief. Trust. Yes. These are two examples of human faith. I understand brakes on a car and power windows working or not working. I have experienced these things. I can see these things and hear these things and touch these things and smell these things and taste these things.
-) But what about this Spiritual faith, this saving faith we are talking about?

-) To have eternal life (saving faith) to a heaven that I have never seen, I must engage my will and trust? How do I trust in a Jesus that I have never physically met, whose life and words are only recorded in this one book? How do I trust this book that was written 2,000 years ago?
-) How do I know He actually said these things? How do I know there really was really a cross? How do I know there really was a resurrection? I wasn't there.
-) I understand brakes and power windows. I've personally experienced those things. But this? These promises? I've never tried out these promises like I have tried out a brake pedal and a power window. And I am supposed to engage my will and trust?
-) Yes. That's why it's called faith and that's why trust is the 3rd component in saving faith.
-) James tells us that even the demons believe. Therefore, there must be some component concerning faith that separates us from the demons. And when we engage the will with trust in the eternal promises of this Book and for our salvation, that is what separates the believer from the demon.
-) **SLIDE 17**. HEBREWS 11:1. What do we hope for? We hope for these promises. Eternal life. Heaven. These promises become our hope (noun). And when we have saving faith we have the assurance of that hope. And what is that assurance based on? It is based on the conviction of things not seen. Faith is based on knowledge, belief, and trust.
-) And that, my friends, is what a person with saving faith has. And that, my friends, is how a person with saving faith lives.
-) We start with a truth. We know that truth by engaging our mind. We then believe that truth by engaging our heart. Then we trust that truth by engaging our will.

-) I have been driving a car for over 52 years. I have applied the brake pedal thousands and thousands of times in those 52 years without failure. Experience has taught me to trust that brake pedal.
-) But I only get one chance at getting my eternity right. One chance. One chance to trust this. And so do you.
-) **SLIDE 18.** HEBREWS 9:27-28. Two truths here. “*After this comes judgment.*” There are no second chances, there are no do-overs, there are no mulligans, and there is no such place as purgatory.
-) “*For salvation ...*” We trust the promises in this Book. Right? One of those promises is that we will meet Jesus (either upon our death or His glorious return). Those who have salvation eagerly await that moment. The demons don’t.
-) Saving faith. We are saved by grace through faith. *Sola fide.* It starts with the truth. Then we know that truth. Then we believe that truth. But remember, the demons also believe. So, the true believer takes that next step and trusts the truth that they know and believe. We trust the promises of this Book. It is our hope!
-) Most theologians would stop there and say that these are the three components to saving faith. Knowledge. Belief. Trust. But I want to take it one step further because James takes it one step further. Next week we will look at component #4—the evidence of saving faith.

4/24/2022 at Beech Grove Christian Church