

Do Something!!

Ephesians 2:8

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

Your faith goes with works. But works will not get you to heaven.

Faith and Deeds

James 2

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? ¹⁵Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶If 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? ¹⁷In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

¹⁸But 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.

Our works are the by-product of our faith.

What if we have faith but aren't doing anything? We should be concerned about the health of our walk with Christ.

What happens when you have people claiming faith and they are not doing what they're told in the truth? We become a man made religious person that is not authentic or real. We become that Christian that makes the church look bad with lot's of opinions but nothing to back it up.

Saying you believe is great!! When the works follow the belief you know it's the real deal! Make it personal.

Faith Factor: Our faith starts with listening to God's truth and applying it to our lives.

Listening and Doing

James 1

*²²Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.
²³Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.*

What happens when you look in the mirror and your hair won't go right? You don't forget. Zit? You don't forget. When some things are not quite comfortable or just right with our clothes, you don't forget. In fact, it bothers us all day. When we like the look, we walk around our day feeling confident and ready to roll. I look in the mirror and go, "man I want to stay in shape", so I go running.

Sometimes in our lives with Christ we do that. We leave church knowing what we need to work on, yet, we forget.

We all want to change. If I went around and asked you if you wanted to change you could even tell me what you wanted to change. We can't change on our own. God is the only one who brings the real change. Turn it over to HIM!

Invite God in and He helps you change from the inside out, amazing things happen. You can't do it, but when you turn it over to Him, watch out.

Confession enacts God's mercy.

Romans 12:2 (New International Version)

²Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- What do I do with what the Bible is telling me?
- What do I do with what I'm hearing in these messages?
- I'm struggling in this certain area of my life, what does God's Word tell me about it? What should I do? Make action POINTS!

Our faith must drive our works, not works driving our faith. We can't earn faith by working. Our faith in the core values and purpose of Christ is what must motivate us.

Faith Factor: Our faith should change the world around us.

We've all been given gifts and talents. We need to figure out what they are and engage them.

Romans 12:4-8

Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function,⁵ so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

Romans 12: 6

In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you.⁷ If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well.⁸ If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously.

If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

As we identify our gifts we put our faith and our gifts together and amazing things happen.

What can you do with what you have to change the world around you?

Luke 12:48 (New International Version)

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

Faith Factor: Living by faith requires courage.

Matthew 14:22

²²Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

²⁹ "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

Don't be afraid or discouraged, step out and watch what happens. Jesus didn't let Peter sink and he won't you either.

Key's:

- Make sure it's Jesus you're following and not your own ideas.
- Take a leap of faith. Try something crazy!!!!!!!
- Keep your eyes on Jesus. Don't get focused on the storms around you.
- When you fall, reach out to Jesus and He'll put you back where you need to be.

Faith Factor: The Result of a faith-filled life is a thriving reality.

John 10:10 (New International Version)

¹⁰ *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

I want to thrive, not maintain, or exist. I want a life of excitement and passion. Live by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7 (New International Version)

⁷ *We live by faith, not by sight.*

Results of a "Do Something" life:

- Purpose
- Passion
- Life becomes an adventure
- Relationships become vibrant
- Sense of accomplishment and satisfaction

If this faith is so powerful, what can I do to build my faith?

- Start by getting right with God!! Or begin a relationship with Him. If you've been one of these mirror guys or gals that walk away from God's Word and forget what you look like, repent and get rid of the bad stuff.
- Put yourself in situations where God is challenging you.
 - Attend Men's and Women's Bible study this week.

- Ask someone you admire to help you walk through life and hold you accountable.
- Read God's Word daily.
- Pray daily. Ask God very specifically for help.
- Journal about what's happening in your life.

If you're asking:

1. What are my gifts?
 - a. Ask those closest to you.
2. What am I doing with the gifts?
 - a. If you don't know, come see us!