Let's Talk About: Living Your Faith

Last week, you had a lesson on faith and belief. Can you explain the difference between the two?

You can have a belief in something without putting your faith in it. For example, I can believe that people do overcome drug and alcohol addiction, but don't have faith that I can overcome it, regardless if others have said it is possible.

While it is good to have belief in God, we must have faith in the things that He says He will do. We must put our faith in the work of Jesus on the cross and how that has cleansed us of our iniquity. We must have faith that God's ways are better than our own. Do you have faith in these things?

Walk by Faith

It is good to have faith. In fact, we learned that without faith, we cannot please God. We cannot be good Christians without faith. However, we cannot just speak about our faith. We have to live it. 2 Corinthians 5:7 tells us: **for we walk by faith, not by sight**. What do you think this means?

First, it is important to understand that God is not asking us to blindly and ignorantly follow His ways. We have beliefs and our faith is based upon those beliefs. So what are some beliefs you have about God that have led you to have faith in Him?

Now let's return to this verse. Walking by faith means that we may not know the outcome of what will happen. We put our faith in God, trusting in His character and in the things that He has already done. This is why it is important to know who God is. Without this perspective, it is difficult to walk by faith.

Read James 1:22-23. What does James tell us to do?

How do we know what we should do?

James tells us that we should hear or read what God says. We should spend time reading in the Bible or studying with others so that we "hear" what God asks of us. Once we have learned that, it is important that we live and do the things that God calls us to do. Can you think of some examples of things God wants us to do?

The Direct Connection

Read James 2:14-26. What does James tell us to do?

To be honest, this is one of the most controversial sections of the Bible. What James is teaching has been debated for nearly 2000 years. It has led many to believe that they must perform works, like baptism, performing sacraments, or honoring the Sabbath, to be saved. These things may seem important but they are not essential. However, God is asking us to live out our faith. To do things that demonstrate our faith in Him. What are

© 2026 Dr. Robert Pannier, Hope CDA, All Rights Reserved

things that God is asking us to do that demonstrate our faith in Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross?

You can come up with many, but some examples may be forgiving others, helping the poor, assisting someone struggling, visiting a sick person, or giving to a good cause. These would all be examples of living out one's faith, and demonstrate what James is talking about. He is not asserting that a person is saved through his or her works, but is explaining that the works demonstrate the faith a person has.

Read Matthew 25:14-30. What does this parable teach about doing as God commands?

While the parable is specifically talking about money, it applies to any "talent" that a person may have. Any gift, ability, or possession that God has given. Some took the "talent" and multiplied it. They use their talents to increase the kingdom and share their faith. One did not. He hid it. He kept it to himself. He was not a doer. His works did not demonstrate any faith at all, except for in himself and his fears.

God calls us to live out our faith through our talents, abilities, and possessions. What is a talent you have that you could share with others?

What is a possession you could use to share with others?

Live Out Your Love

While talents, abilities, and possessions are important things to share if one is going to live out his or her faith, the most important thing a person can share is his or her love. Jesus commanded us to love others (John 13:34-35). This was not a suggestion or an idea, but a command.

You have or will soon learn about being obedient to God. We are commanded to love others. Are you being obedient to that command?

What are ways that you could live out your faith through your love for others? Be specific about someone that you could show your love to that would demonstrate your faith in God.

How do you think loving others demonstrates faith in God?

Living your faith is also accepting that God loves you and wants the best for you. This is true even when you are going through difficult times. Read Romans 8:28. How should we view "challenging" times in our lives?

If we are going to walk by faith, then we must trust that we have a God who is doing things for our benefit. Who loves us and would do nothing to harm us. Read Isaiah 41:10-13. What does God promise to you?

If you believe in these promises, will you commit to living your faith? Pray together in your group to live out your faith.

Your Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:7 – 7 **for we walk by faith, not by sight.**

© 2026 Dr. Robert Pannier, Hope CDA, All Rights Reserved