

## REAL FAITH (PART 2)

James 2:20-26

PAT NEMMERS

December 3, 2023

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Community Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at [www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons](http://www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons).

### WANT MORE CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY?

- Check out this free [Verse-by-Verse Bible Commentary](http://www.StudyLight.org), available through [www.StudyLight.org](http://www.StudyLight.org).
- Watch an [overview video of the Book of James](http://www.BibleProject.com), available from [www.BibleProject.com](http://www.BibleProject.com).

### CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- We're entering the Christmas season! What are some ways that your celebrations will point to Christ this month? How can you use this season to help make more people more like Jesus?

### APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **Pastor Pat helped us know how to evaluate whether or not our faith is real.**

#### Introduction:

- If a child asked you what it means to be a Christian, how would you respond? How would you explain the connection between having faith and doing good works?

#### How Can You Know Your Faith Is Real?

##### 1. If it shows signs of life (James 2:26)

- Pastor Pat said, "Saving faith doesn't just give you eternal life *later*, it gives you a changed life *now*." How would your daily life be different without your salvation? Your motives, your schedule, your budget, your speech, etc. Is your life actually different than someone that isn't saved?
- What might change in your Community Group, your church, and your local area if lovers of Jesus lived the "abundant life" (John 10:10) in front of each other?

##### 2. If it passes God's tests (James 2:20-26)

- People who don't know Jesus do good works just like believers do. What's the difference?
- In verse 21, Abraham is said to have been "justified" when he offered up his son, Isaac on the altar. Look quickly at Genesis 22 and retell the story in your own words. If God were to ask you to be willing to sacrifice something important to you to prove your faith in Him, what would that be? Would you be willing?

***Receive and Respond: What will I do because of what I just heard?***

### PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that you and the people in your group would show signs of spiritual LIFE this week!

