

Week 30
205/160

Transforming Daily
“... *the testing of your faith* ...”
James 1:3

The book of James has stirred debate since the time of its writing. As a matter of fact, it wasn't immediately accepted into the canon of Scripture because of its potentially divisive content. James has contributed no little controversy to the doctrine of salvation regarding the matter of works. Some folks say that James proves that salvation and Christian living is a matter of works. Works substantiates faith. Some folks say that James proves that salvation and Christian living is a matter of faith. Faith substantiates works.

The heart of the matter of James is the matter of the heart. There is no argument that faith and works are indispensable to Christian living. It is equally accepted that faith and works are inextricably linked together for Christian living. In order to settle the debate on the use of faith and works, other Scripture passages must be taken into consideration (I'll leave that exercise to your own personal study of God's Word). Suffice it to say that both elements are important to the Christian witness and testimony.

The debate of faith and works reminds me of the story of the high wire walker who spanned the Grand Canyon with his wire and walked from one side to the other. The crowd was amazed. They broke out into spontaneous applause. Then he rode a bike from one side to the other. The crowd was amazed and broke out into spontaneous applause with “oos and awes.” Then he took a wheelbarrow and pushed it from one side to the other. The crowd was amazed, broke into spontaneous applause, “ood and awed,” and began chattering among themselves in disbelief. Then he took the wheelbarrow, put the bike into it, and pushed them from one side to the other. The crowd was amazed, broke into spontaneous applause, “ood and awed,” chattered among themselves in disbelief, and their bodies stirred with enthusiasm as they cheered the high wire walker on. Then the high wire walker humbly said, “Thank you. Now who will get into the wheelbarrow and cross over from one side to the other with me?” The crowd was silent.

Faith professed without works and works performed without faith is dead. Rather than debating the existence and merits of each, as the Nike motto says, “Just do it!” Profess your faith in Christ and get busy (or continue) doing His work, His will, His way, according to His Word!

Has too much analysis about what to do, how to do, when to do, and why to do what God has called you to do brought paralysis to your doing? Do you have faith? What motivates you to do God's work? The sincerity and results of your works are determined by the testing of your faith.