

JAMES

Faith on Display in Your Actions // 2 Corinthians 5:6-7

THE POINT: What you believe is seen in what you do.

OVERVIEW: Most Americans believe in God, and over half of that group believe in God as revealed in Scripture. While some might be encouraged by such a high percentage, we might wonder why the ethical and moral standards of America do not match that percentage. Too many people fail to align what they believe with what they do, but the Book of James teaches us that belief and practice go hand in hand.

DIRECTIONS: As you begin your event, consider using the following engage options before starting the message.

Atmosphere

Decorate the room with objects from a construction site (e.g., hammers, drills, hard hats, etc.). Say, **“Living out our faith can be hard work, but we can make a difference for God’s kingdom when we put our faith into action.”**

TEACH (Make your notes below)

➤ **THE POINT:** What you believe is seen in what you do.

➤ 1. AWAY FROM THE LORD

2 Corinthians 5:6

➤ 2. FAITH AND NOT SIGHT

2 Corinthians 5:7a

➤ 3. WE WALK

2 Corinthians 5:7b

Media

Search the internet for “Faith & Works - American Gospel: Christ Alone.” Play the video as you begin the session. Say, **“If we have experienced salvation in Jesus, it will be evidenced by the fruit of our works.”**

PREPARE (Sermon outline)

The things we truly believe will be demonstrated in the ways we walk—the ways we live.

- **A.** In this life, we don’t live in the direct presence of God.
 - B.** Still, we have access to God through prayer and worship.
 - C.** Further, the Holy Spirit dwells in us and provides guidance and power to live for God.
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- **A.** Because we don’t live continually in God’s direct presence, we must live by faith.
 - B.** Faith is our being confident in the things we don’t see.
 - C.** People naturally live according to what they see and hear and touch, but Christians are called to live by faith in God’s promises.
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- **A.** Our “walk” refers to the ways we live.
 - B.** True faith is always demonstrated in living in obedience to God.
 - C.** If we live by faith in this life, we can know we will see God in eternity.

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DIRECTIONS: Use the following outline as a guide for a message based on the passages from this session of Bible Studies for Life: Students. Additionally, use the suggested illustrations and activities to customize your midweek event.

INTRO

- ▶ Why do some people see Christians as hypocrites?
- ▶ When have you seen someone living differently than the faith they profess?
- ▶ How should our lives reflect our faith?

2 CORINTHIANS 5:6

- ▶ How does prayer and worship give us access to God?
- ▶ How has prayer and worship helped you to grow closer to God?
- ▶ What are some ways the Holy Spirit helps us to live for God?

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7a

- ▶ What does living by faith look like?
- ▶ How can we have confidence in things we don't see?
- ▶ What are some of God's promises that are essential to our faith?

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7b

- ▶ What are some differences in the ways Christians live compared to the rest of the world?
- ▶ Why is obedience in God a necessary component of true faith?
- ▶ How does a knowledge of eternity encourage us to live by faith now?

LIVE IT OUT

- ▶ **Discuss:** Ask students to briefly discuss ideas that may have challenged them during the session.
- ▶ **Ask:** What can you do to more actively live out your faith?
- ▶ **Pray:** Ask God to make students aware of opportunities for them to live out their faith in everyday life.