James is confronting the kind of faith that doesn’t ________—the kind of faith that is empty, ____________, and ineffectual.

Is my faith the kind of faith that is manifested in my life and pleases God? Or is it a faith that looks similar to real faith on the surface, but in the end, is inadequate or ineffectual?

The difference between Paul and James lies in the fact that Paul attacks the problem of ____________ (i.e., we are justified by our faith in Christ, not by doing the things of the Law).

And James opposes those who feel all you have to do is ____________ and it doesn’t matter how you ____________.

“But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.” (James 1:22)

We deceive ourselves when God’s truth is received on a ____________ level, so that truth never ____________ the basic direction of our life—our thoughts, words, or deeds.

“You are my friends if you do whatever I command you.” (John 15:14)

“But why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46)

Our lifestyle needs to reflect the ____________ of our faith.

3 CHARACTERISTICS OF REAL FAITH

#1. Real faith connects to _________.

“What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone?” (James 2:14)

“Can that kind of faith save anyone?”

The question James wants to answer isn’t whether works without faith can save us, but whether a dead faith—one which produces no fruit—no ________ in our lives—can save us.

Will I receive the crown of life by simply believing in Jesus without demonstrating obedience to His word?

“Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, ‘Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well’—but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?” (James 2:15-16)

What may have sounded spiritual was, in reality, ____________. In fact, James says what was evident here was not the person’s faith, but their ____________.

There is a profound and fundamental difference between the ____________, regenerate person and one who is a new ____________ in Christ.

The fundamental issue here is ____________ verses ____________.

To be “in-Christ” is to live out of the ____________ and not the flesh; out love and not selfishness.

“Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.” (Colossians 3:12-14)

Love responds with ____________ from the heart and does something ________ to help the other person. It’s not just a sentimental feeling—it’s faith in ________.

Selfishness is all about ____________.

“We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.” (1 John 3:16)

“So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.” (James 2:17)

The Law of Christ demands that we love our ____________. And biblical love is always ____________ and not ____________.

“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It
does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

“If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion–how can God’s love be in that person? Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.” (1 John 3:17-18)

How real is your faith? How does your faith connect with real life?

#2. Real faith is more than just acceptance of the ________.

“But someone will say, ‘You have faith and I have works.’ Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe--and shudder.” (James 2:18-19)

Scripture is clear that a ________ to keep God’s commands shows a lack of ________.

“If you love me, you will obey my commandments.” (John 14:15)

The point that James is making is that the demons have faith only—they don’t do the ________ of God.

Biblical faith will always cause people to ________ Jesus’ command to love in word and ________.

“Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter...” (Matthew 7:21)

How real is your faith? How well do you practice what you preach?

#3. Real faith produces ________.

“How foolish! Can’t you see that faith without good deeds is useless?” (James 2:20)

nekros = ________

3 important things about real faith

• Real faith is based on the ________.

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17)

• Real faith involves the ________ person–our mind, emotions, and our ________.

• Real faith always leads to _________. For faith to be real there must be a visible ________ to the word.

REAL FAITH: ABRAHAM & RAHAB

Abraham: The evidence of Abraham’s faith was his obedience—it wasn’t just what was going on inside of him—it was what he ________ did.

Rahab: Even though she was a foreigner, in doing this, Rahab confirmed that she ________ in who the God of Israel was; what He said; and what He was doing. Rahab heard the word and believed.

Rahab responded not only with her mind and her emotions but also her ________, she did something about it–she didn’t just wish the spies well–she risked her life to protect them. Like Abraham, she proved her faith by her works—and both were ________.

Paul is describing how we are justified before ________. James is describing how we are justified before _________. We can’t see into another person’s ________ to know their faith—we have to look at the ________ in their lives as a sign of their faith.

Both demonstrated the ________ of their faith and vindicated their claim to believe in God by what they ________—by the conduct of their lives.

Genuine faith will always result in ________ action. A faith that doesn’t produce good works is a _________. It is not saving faith.

The essence of Christianity is ________—a changed heart; a renewed mind; a ________ life.

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Real faith ________—if it’s not changing me into a better version of myself, it’s at best defective and at worst, stone cold dead.

How real is your faith? How has your faith in Christ changed you?

Is the faith that I profess a saving faith—it is a genuine faith?

Is it going to stand up on Judgement Day as the real thing?

How do I know if it’s the real deal?

“Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith.” (2 Corinthians 13:5)