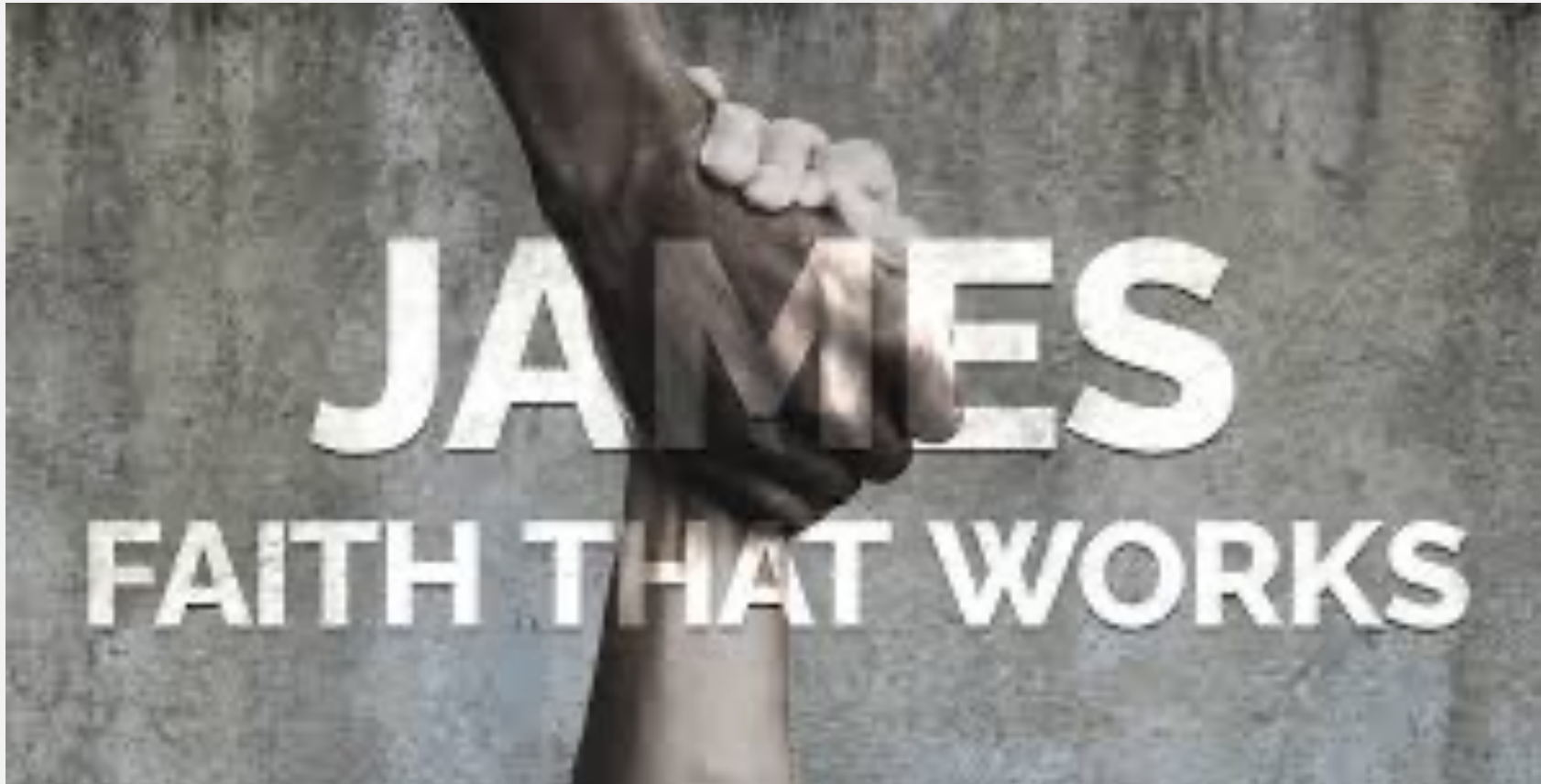




James 2: 14 – 20
Solid Rock Church
Pastor Elliott Anderson

Faith Foundations

Who introduced you to faith in Christ?

Who taught you about faith in Christ?

Who showed you faith in Christ?



Faith Definition

—

Complete trust or confidence in someone or something

Hebrews 11: 1, Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for (eternal life with Jesus) and the conviction of things unseen (Jesus, salvation, Holy Spirit, sanctification).

We live by Faith

Hab 2: 4, Gal 3: 11, Heb 10:38

Romans 1: 16 - 17, For in the Gospel and salvation, the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, the righteousness shall live by faith.



We Walk and Please God Through Faith

2nd Corinthians 5: 7, We walk by faith not by sight.

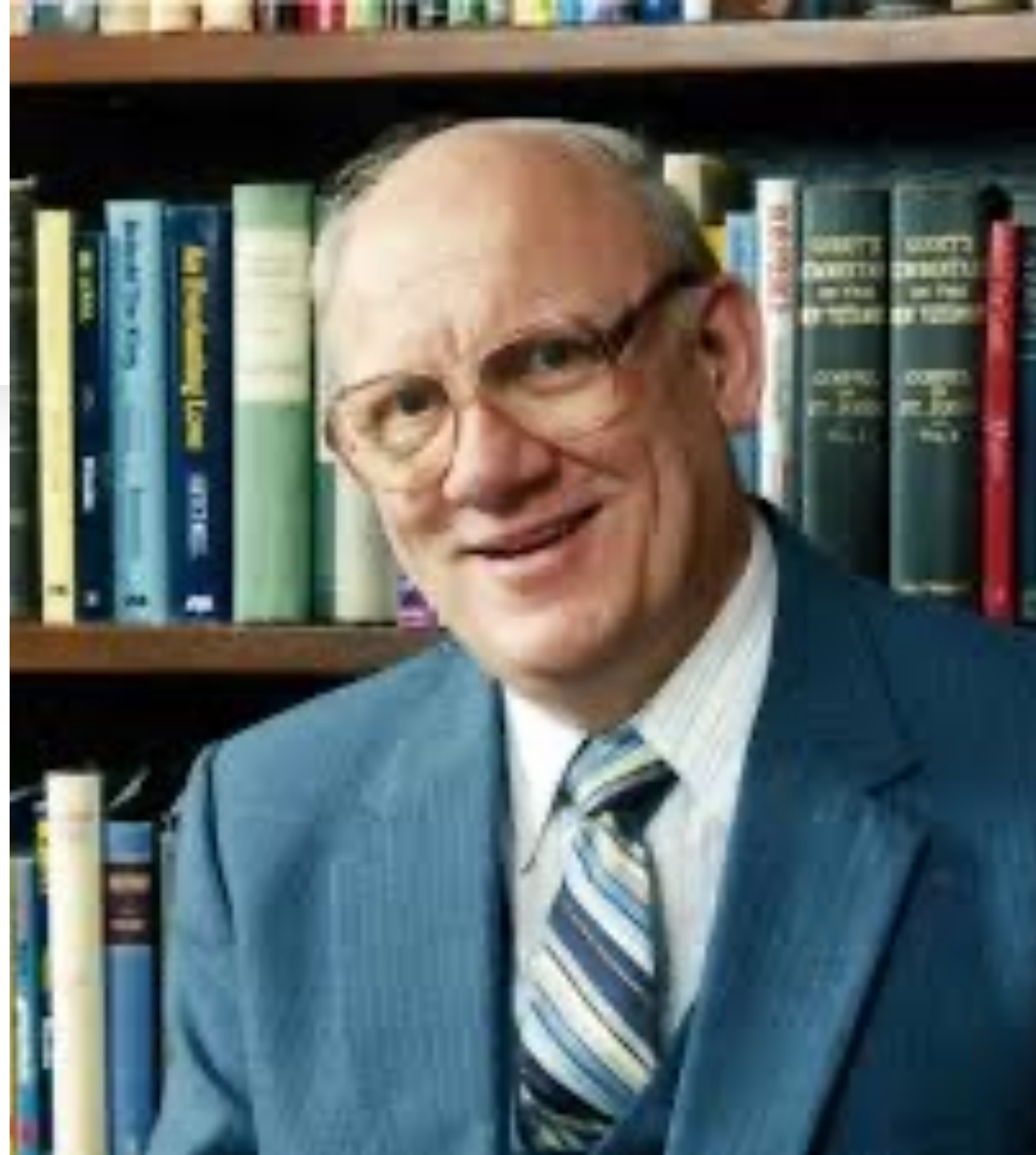
Hebrews 11: 6, And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.



Faith is a Life in Christ

“Faith is not some kind of nebulous feeling that we work up; faith is confidence that Christ’s Word is true, and conviction that acting on that Word will bring blessing.”

Warren Wiersbe



maxim

noun — /ˈmæksɪm/

a short statement of
general truth, principle,
or moral conduct



College Transitions - 250 SAT Vocabulary Words You Must Know in 2023
<https://www.collegetransitions.com/blog/sat-vocabulary-words-101/>

James' Maxims

We're the source of our temptations

We must hear and live the Word

Christians must not show partiality

Christ's law of love demands mercy

***Faith in Christ must include
good works***

James 2: 14

What use is it my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him?

Faith in Jesus saves us, so James is saying if there are no works of the faith, there is no true faith.

James Contradicting Paul?

Ephesians 2: 8 – 9, For it is by grace you have been saved, ***through faith***—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **not by works**, so that no one can boast.



James Contradicting Paul?

NO!

Ephesians 2: 10, For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus **to do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.



It's Faith that Produces Works

Matthew 5: 16, In the same way, let your light shine before others, **so that they may see your good works** and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Titus 3: 8, The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to **devote themselves to good works.**

What is “Works of the Law?”

—
Works of the Law are duties in the Mosaic Law to earn righteousness with God and community.

Galatians 3: 10, For all who rely on the *works of the law* are under a curse... **(6X in Galatians)**

Romans 3: 20, For *by works of the law* no human being will be justified in God’s sight. **(3x in Romans)**

James 2: 15 – 16:

1st Example: Useless Faith

If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” without giving them the things they needed for the body, what good is that?”

Context of the Example

Brother / Sister denotes attender of the Church

Church took care of the poor - “breaking of bread” ministries

“Go in peace” common and regular expression of farewell

“Be warmed and be filled,” passive imperative tense

May someone else – or God – take care of your needs...

Paul and John Commands

Care for the Needs in the Church

Galatians 6: 10, So then, as we have opportunity, let us **do good to everyone**, and especially those who of the household of faith (our church).

1st John 3: 17, But if anyone has the world's goods and **sees his brother in need**, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

James 2: 17 – 18 :

2nd Example: Faith is Not Words

*So also, **faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.** But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.*

Dead Faith?

Faith without life – love – energy – spirit - trust

Their faith words lack hope – belief - conviction

Their faith walk does not match their faith talk

Their faith lacks Holy Spirit power and the love of Jesus

James 2: 26, For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

Faith is Not Shown Through Words

Partiality and favoritism doesn't show faith

Judgment without mercy doesn't show faith

Words of faith are not enough – faith must be shown.

Jesus: Words of Faith are Not Enough!



Matthew 7: 21 – 23, Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do **many mighty works in your name?**’ And then will I declare to them, ‘**I never knew you;** depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.

Jesus: How Do We Show our Faith?

— Love your neighbor as yourself	Matthew 22: 39
Love others as I have loved you	John 13: 34
Lay down your life for another	John 15: 13
Love your enemies	Matthew 5: 44
Pray for those who persecute you	Matthew 5: 44
Care for the least of these	Matthew 25: 40
Do to others what you would want	Matthew 7: 12
Share clothes and food	Luke 3: 11

James 2: 19:

3rd Example: The Faith of Demons

You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe and shudder.

Demons aren't atheistic or agnostic.
Only humans choose that.

Demons Believe in Jesus!

—

Luke 4: 33 – 34, And in the Synagogue, there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, “*What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? I know who you are – the Holy One of God.*”

Mark 3: 11, And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before Him and cried out, “*You are the Son of God.*” And Jesus strictly ordered them not to make them known.

Shuddering Faith?

Shudder: sudden shaking from cold, fear, or disgust
Involuntary muscle contractions, shivers, spasms

1st Samuel 3: 11, The Lord said to Samuel, “I am about to do something in Israel that everyone who hears about it **will shudder.**” (18X in Bible - 3X in NT)

Shuddering Faith

Awe and reverence for the Lord: fear and trembling

Psalm 2: 11, Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with **trembling**.

Jeremiah 33: 9, Then this city will bring me renown, joy, praise and honor before all nations on earth that hear of all the good things I do for it; and **they will be in awe and will tremble** at the abundant prosperity and peace I provide for it.

James 2: 20: Faith That Works Maxim

*But are you willing to recognize, you foolish person, **that faith without works is useless?***

Foolish in the New Testament

Someone who lives in self reliance, is arrogant about their own understanding, and who ignores God's wisdom and teaching.

Matthew 7: 26, And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

Titus 3: 3, For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

Is Our Faith Useful?

What are our tangible works for the kingdom?

In our Families? Church Community?

Serving the children, widows, the poor, feeding and clothing those in need?

Faith Legacy

Who are you introducing to faith in Christ? Inviting to Church?

Who are you teaching right now about faith in Christ?

Who are you showing Christ to?

