

# Be Thou My Vision: A Church that is Doers of the Word

Wylie United Methodist Church  
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – October 19, 2008

James 1:22

**Be doers of the word, and not hearers only,** deceiving yourselves.

James 2:14-19

14 What good is it, my brothers, **if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?** 15 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, **faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.** 18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." **Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.** 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! **Even the demons believe that-and shudder.**

"The proof is in the pudding." Means, "the true value or quality of something can only be judged when it's put to use."

Paul (Justification by Faith Alone)

- Before a person is converted
- Asks the Question: How is a sinner justified by God?
- A sinner is justified by faith alone

James (Faith without deeds is dead)

- After a person is converted
- Asks the Question: How can faith be shown genuine?
- Genuine faith is proven by good deeds and Holy Living

Danger of 2 false beliefs:

- 1) YOUR WORKS CAN GET YOU TO HEAVEN.
- 2) YOUR WORKS DON'T MATTER.

## 1. DEEDLESS FAITH IS DEAD

v. 17 **faith by itself,** if it is not accompanied by action, **is dead.**

In other words, Our Good Intentions are Worthless.

## 2. DEEDLESS FAITH IS NOT REAL AND WILL NOT SAVE.

v. 14 What good is it, my brothers, **if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?**

## 3. DEEDLESS FAITH IS SHARED WITH DEMONS

v. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! **Even the demons believe that-and shudder.**

Mark 5:7 (Demon-possessed man)

"What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?"

If our faith has no works to prove it authentic, then we are demonstrating the same faith as Satan and demonic spirits.

## 4. GENUINE FAITH IS DEMONSTRATED BY HOLY LIVING

v. 18 Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith **by what I do.**

Works are not necessary to Obtain salvation, but rather as Proof of salvation.

## 5. GENUINE FAITH ACCOMPANIED BY HOLY LIVING, SAVES & REWARDS

What you believe about Jesus Christ determines where you will spend eternity...In Heaven or Hell.

How you behave on earth determines how God will reward you in heaven.

Matthew 16:27

The Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then **he will reward each person according to what he has done.**

Are you filled only with Good Intentions for Christ?

Or, are you a DOER of the Word?

THE PROOF IS IN THE PUDDING!