

The Methodists argued:

“Go and do likewise.”

--Jesus, from the Parable of The Good Samaritan

What kind of faith saves?

1. Genuine faith is not indifferent, but _____.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? James 2:14-16 (NIV)

[God has] already made it plain how to live, what to do, what GOD is looking for in men and women. It’s quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, And don’t take yourself too seriously— take God seriously. Micah 6:8 (MSG)

2. Genuine faith is not independent, but a _____.

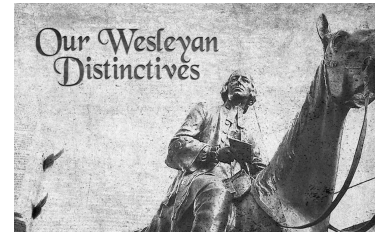
In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. James 2:17 (NIV)

3. Genuine faith is not invisible, but _____.

Now someone may argue, “Some people have faith; others have good deeds.” But I say, “How can you show me your faith if you don’t have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds.” James 2: 18 (NLT)

4. Genuine faith is not merely intellectual, but _____.

You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. How foolish! Can’t you see that faith without good deeds is useless? James 2:19-20 (NLT)



sermon notes

Faith and Works
October 13, 2019
Pastor John Speight
CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/SERMONS

On May 24, 1738, John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, had a personal encounter with God, through Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit. He wrote in his journal:

“In the evening, I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Martin Luther’s preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for my salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.”

--John Wesley

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can.”

--John Wesley

The main argument between the Calvinists and Wesley and the early Methodists centered around the relationship between faith and works.

The Calvinists argued:

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. Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

He has saved us and called us to a holy life – not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.

2 Timothy 1:9 (NIV)

Answer Key

1. Genuine faith is not indifferent, but INVOLVED.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? James 2:14-16 (NIV)

[God has] already made it plain how to live, what to do, what GOD is looking for in men and women. It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, And don't take yourself too seriously— take God seriously. Micah 6:8 (MSG)

2. Genuine faith is not independent, but a PARTNERSHIP.

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. James 2:17 (NIV)

3. Genuine faith is not invisible, but ON DISPLAY.

Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds." James 2: 18 (NLT)

4. Genuine faith is not merely intellectual, but FROM THE HEART.

You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless? James 2:19-20 (NLT)