

Study Guide: Faith, Humility, and the Necessity of Good Deeds

This study guide provides a comprehensive review of the recent sermon “Is Faith All It Takes to Get to Heaven? | It Matters How You Live “ focusing on the biblical relationship between internal faith and external actions. It explores the teachings of the Book of James, the nature of Christian community, and the practical application of belief in daily life.

Watch the Sermon Here: https://youtu.be/S65VD_PM6UE

Part 1: Short Answer Quiz

Instructions: Answer the following questions in two to three sentences based on the provided text.

1. **What is the significance of the phrase "Welcome to church" as used in the message?**
2. **How does Pastor Dustin Woolam describe the relationship between "right believing" and "right action"?**
3. **According to the discussion of James 2, what is the fundamental difference between saving faith and the belief held by demons?**
4. **How does Pastor Dustin Woolam reconcile Paul's teachings on salvation by grace with James's emphasis on works?**
5. **What is the "aroma of Christ" concept, and how does it relate to genuineness?**
6. **In what way does Pastor Dustin Woolam critique the idea of faith as a "muscle" or a "currency"?**
7. **What did James define as "true and undefiled religion" in the context of his time?**
8. **According to James 4, what is the consequence of desiring friendship with the "world"?**
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10. What is the purpose of the "Strenuous Life" good deed challenge mentioned in the text?
11. Why is it considered a sin to know what is right and then fail to do it?

Part 2: Answer Key

1. The phrase "Welcome to church" is identified as a hallmark of Pentecostalism, a belief system emphasizing the gifts of the Spirit. Pastor Dustin Woolam uses it to distinguish the church environment from the home, suggesting that "making yourself at church" implies a specific, reverent way of acting that differs from domestic behavior.
2. Pastor Dustin Woolam asserts that right believing leads to right action. While it is possible to believe the right things and fail to act on them, it is nearly impossible to consistently do the right things without the foundation of correct belief.
3. Pastor Dustin Woolam notes that even demons believe in God and tremble in terror, but this belief does not result in a changed life. Saving faith is distinguished by its ability to change the way a person lives and produces good deeds, whereas the demons' belief remains useless.
4. Pastor Dustin Woolam clarifies that works do not earn faith; rather, faith is not genuine if it does not change the believer's life. Jesus performed all the necessary work for salvation, but James teaches that the faith we have in Jesus is only evidenced by the good deeds that follow.
5. The concept, attributed to a person named Ian, describes how some people merely have the "smoke" of the church on them, while others emanate the aroma of Christ from within. This emanation represents a genuineness where the influence of Jesus is a part of their nature rather than just an external coating.
6. Pastor Dustin Woolam argues that faith is often misused as a tool to get what one wants or a strength one builds to manipulate God into acting. Instead, biblical faith as seen in Hebrews 11 is about total trust, confidence, and reliance upon the Lord regardless of circumstances.
7. James defines true religion as taking care of widows and orphans, who were the most vulnerable members of society in that era. Because they lacked husbands or fathers for protection and provision, Christians have historically prioritized their care as a mandate of scripture.
8. James 4 states that friendship with the world makes a person an enemy of God. The text emphasizes that loyalty cannot be divided; one must humble themselves before God and resist the devil to remain in alignment with Divine will.
9. The challenge requires doing a good deed every day without being caught. The goal is to develop a lifestyle of doing good for its own sake and for the love of Jesus, rather than for external credit or "good boy points."
10. James concludes that to know the right thing to do and yet not do it is a sin. This suggests that the condition of the heart and the failure to act on moral knowledge are just as significant as committing overt wrongdoings.

Part 3: Essay Format Questions

Instructions: Use the following prompts to develop deeper responses. These questions do not have provided answers and are intended for extended reflection or discussion.

1. **The Tension of Faith and Works:** Analyze how the message navigates the theological tension between being saved by grace and the requirement for "dead" faith to be revived by works. How does Pastor Dustin Woolam use the "thief on the cross" anecdote to support this balance?
2. **The Nature of Christian Community:** Pastor Dustin Woolam mentions that God "saves us for each other." Discuss the implications of this statement regarding the transition from individual salvation to membership in the "body of Christ."
3. **Authenticity and Outward Signs:** Examine Pastor Dustin Woolam's observations on how groups (such as the military or sports teams) use outward signs to show belonging. Contrast these social markers with the internal "aroma" that is supposed to identify a Christian in "the wild."
4. **Humility and Sovereignty:** Discuss the biblical perspective on human planning as presented in the excerpts from James 4. Why is it considered "boasting" to plan for the future without acknowledging the Lord's will?
5. **Practical Benevolence:** Evaluate Pastor Dustin Woolam's distinction between struggling with good deeds due to a lack of skill versus a lack of care. How does this distinction provide a pathway for spiritual growth in a believer's life?

Part 4: Glossary of Key Terms

Term	Definition
Agape	A Greek term used in the Bible to describe unconditional love.
Aroma of Christ	A metaphor for the genuine, pervasive influence of Jesus in a believer's life that is noticeable to others.
Body of Christ	The collective community of Christians who are "members of each other" and are saved to serve one another.
Coptic Knots	A specific prayer practice used by members of the Coptic Church.
Eros	A Greek term for romantic or passionate love.
Faith (Hebrews 11)	The confidence in what is hoped for and the assurance about things not seen; characterized by reliance on God rather than human effort.
Fileo	A Greek term referring to brotherly love or affection.
Good Deeds	Actions taken to help others (such as feeding the hungry or clothing the poor) that serve as outward evidence of inward faith.
Justification by Faith	The theological doctrine that one is made right with God through belief rather than through adherence to the law or works.
Pentecostalism	A Christian movement and belief system that emphasizes the gifts of the Holy Spirit and a "spirit-filled" life.
Perspicuity of Scripture	The clarity of the Bible, referring to the idea that the core message of scripture is understandable.

Right Believing	The foundation of correct biblical doctrine which, according to the speaker, should naturally lead to "right action."
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True Religion	As defined by James, the act of caring for the vulnerable (widows and orphans) and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world.
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Worldly Friendship	A state of alignment with the values and desires of the secular world that James describes as being in opposition to God.
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