

Faith That Moves Beyond Words

Walking in Covenant, Faith & Truth | Week 2

Pastor Malisa Michelle

Study theme: Exploring the difference between saying we believe and actually living according to what we believe.

Primary passage: James 2:14–26. **Supporting passages:** Matthew 7:21–27; John 14:15; 1 John 3:16–18; Ephesians 2:8–10; Micah 6:8; Galatians 5:22–23.

Opening Reflection

I want us to ask ourselves a question: If someone never heard us say that we believe in Yahweh, would the way we live give them a reason to recognize our faith? It is easy to speak the language of faith. It takes commitment to live it when nobody is watching, when doing right costs us something, or when obedience challenges our preferences.

I am not asking us to pretend to be perfect. I am asking us to be willing to grow. A living faith does not mean we never stumble; it means we continue returning to Yahweh, allowing His Word to correct our attitudes and direct our actions.

1. Belief Is a Beginning, Not the Finish Line

James 2:17 teaches that faith without works is dead. James is challenging a claim of faith that never produces practical care or changed behavior. In James 2:15–16, someone sees a person in need and offers comforting words without meeting the need. The point is clear: words alone do not feed the hungry or clothe the person who is cold.

Consider this: We can say we love people while withholding compassion. We can say we trust Yahweh while allowing fear to rule every decision. We can say we value truth while refusing correction. Our words and our conduct should begin moving in the same direction.

2. Obedience Gives Faith Expression

In John 14:15, Yeshua connects love for Him with keeping His commandments. Obedience is not a performance to earn Yahweh's affection. It is a response of love and trust. Abraham is an example in James 2:21–23: his faith was demonstrated through what he did. His action made visible the trust he professed.

Ask yourself: What instruction from Scripture do I already understand but keep postponing? It might involve making peace, speaking truthfully, honoring a commitment, showing generosity, or changing a harmful habit.

3. Grace and Good Works Belong in the Right Order

Ephesians 2:8–10 reminds us that salvation is by grace through faith, not something we earn by good works. Yet the same passage says we are created in Messiah Yeshua for good works. We do not obey to purchase salvation; we seek to live faithfully because grace is transforming us. James emphasizes the evidence of genuine faith; Paul emphasizes the source of salvation. These teachings can be read together rather than placed in competition.

4. Faith Must Reach Our Relationships and Community

In 1 John 3:18, we are urged not to love only in word or speech, but in action and truth. Living faith can be seen in the home, in business, in ministry, and in how we treat people who cannot do anything for us. It looks like integrity when no one is checking, patience when we are frustrated, compassion toward those in need, and accountability when we have caused harm.

For Rooted Kingdom Ministries, I want us to be more than a community that studies Scripture. I want us to become a community that puts the Word into practice. Our prayer, biblical teaching, fellowship, and outreach should lead to real care for people and meaningful change in our communities.

5. The Fruit Matters More Than the Appearance

Yeshua's teaching in Matthew 7:24–27 compares the wise person to someone who hears His words and puts them into practice. The house built on rock withstands the storm. Galatians 5:22–23 also describes the fruit of the Spirit: qualities such as love, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Spiritual maturity is not measured only by how much we can quote. It is also reflected in who we are becoming.

A Personal Faith Check

- Do my private choices reflect the values I speak about publicly?
- When someone is in need, do I offer only words or look for a practical way to help?
- How do I respond when Scripture challenges my behavior?
- Where is Yahweh asking me to take one step of obedience this week?
- What fruit of the Spirit needs more room to grow in my life?

Seven-Day Faith in Action Challenge

Day 1: Read James 2:14–26 slowly and write down one verse that challenges you.

Day 2: Identify one belief you often express and one action that should accompany it.

Day 3: Perform a practical act of kindness without seeking recognition.

Day 4: Repair one relationship where possible through humility, apology, or honest conversation.

Day 5: Practice integrity in a decision that nobody else will see.

Day 6: Reflect on Galatians 5:22–23 and choose one fruit to cultivate intentionally.

Day 7: Journal what changed when you moved from intention to action.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between religious language and a lived relationship with Yahweh?
2. How does James's example of a person in need challenge our understanding of faith?
3. Why is it important to remember that grace comes before good works?
4. What does obedient faith look like in our families, workplaces, and neighborhoods?
5. What is one practical commitment you are willing to make this week?

Closing Prayer

Yahweh, our Father, thank You for Your Word and for Your patience as we grow. Search our hearts and show us where our actions have not reflected what we say we believe. Give us courage to obey, humility to receive correction, and compassion to serve others. Through Yeshua, help us become doers of the Word and not hearers only. May our faith be seen in love, truth, integrity, and faithfulness. Amen.

My Closing Encouragement

I want to leave you with this: **Do not let your faith stop at your lips. Let it reach your choices, your relationships, and your community.** We may not get everything right overnight, but every day gives us another opportunity to live what we believe.

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Rooted in Truth. Grounded in Faith. Walking in Kingdom.