

(in)FORMATION

GAINING INFORMATION FROM JAMES, SO WE CAN BE IN FORMATION LIKE JESUS.



NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN CENTER
September 13, 2026

A FAITH YOU CAN SEE
Pastor Dave Larson | Turlock
Pastor Jeremy Moore | Patterson

James 2:14-26

What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? James 2:14 (NLT)

A faith FORMED by Jesus becomes visible through a life that MOVES like Jesus.

1. Real faith MOVES.

See James 2:15-17

If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? Dear children, let us not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

1 John 3:17-18 (NLT)

2. Real faith SHOWS.

See James 2:18-20

You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Matthew 7:16a (NLT)

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

3. Real faith COSTS.

See James 2:21-26

God saved you by his grace when you believed... Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:8-10 (NLT)

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CONNECT

What's one "smoke detector moment" in your life...a time something invisible suddenly became impossible to ignore (bonus points if it happened at 3am)?

ENGAGE

What impacted you the most personally from the message?

GROW

1. James says faith that's real "shows"...not tells. If someone watched your life for a week with the sound off (no prayers, no worship music, no Bible verses), what do you think they'd conclude about what you believe?
2. What's the difference between "information" (what do I know?) and "formation" (who am I becoming?) in your own walk with Jesus right now?
3. James says even demons believe correct theology, and it changes nothing about them. Why do you think it's possible to have accurate beliefs about God and still remain unchanged?
4. Read Galatians 5:22-23. This passage lists the fruit of the Spirit as things that grow, not tasks we check off. Which of the fruit do you feel is growing in you lately? Which feels stagnant?
5. James gives the example that Abraham's faith cost him his willingness to give up his son and Rahab's faith cost her the risk of her life. Is there a place where actually living out what you believe is costing you something? What is it?

LEAD (YOURSELF):

What's one concrete, specific action you could take this week that would let your faith "move" rather than just stay as a belief in your head?