

## JUST DO IT // (Wk 3)

### SCRIPTURE //

- James 2:14-20; 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? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. 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."
- 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? Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works."

### TITLE //

- The Title of this Message is **Verified** and today we are going to take a look into authentic faith.

### ILLUSTRATION //

- Story of a time you or someone else got something only to find out it was a knock off.
  - The story of when I got in a roast battle and the other kid exposed me for having Shaq's on!
  - There is something to be said about having the real thing and when we don't, people can tell.
  - The truth is we put value on authenticity in our culture but what about our faith?...

### TENSION //

- But how do I know what is genuine and authentic faith? What does it look like? Do I have genuine faith? What do I do if I don't?

### MAIN POINT //

- **Verified Faith always produces Genuine Action with Pure Intentions.**

### BREAKDOWN //

- First, we have to ask the question what is Faith? We can't differentiate the real and from the fake until we can define it.
- ***Faith is the belief, trust, and loyalty to a person or thing. The Hebrew language has six terms that develop the fundamental ideas of belief, trust, and loyalty.***
- **Hebrews 11:1 - Faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen**
  - Faith in God is the supernatural ability to confidently believe, trust, and have a relationship with a divine being that you can't see.
- ***Faith is foundational to our relationship with God.***

- Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.
- **Faith is a gift from God**
  - Ephesians 2:8–9 - By grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

## VERIFIED FAITH //

- Verified Faith Should Affect Your Heart and Intentions
  - When you have a deep faith, a belief, a security, a confidence, dependence, a reliance on Jesus it should first change you from the inside. .
  - Jesus knew that the sinfulness of humanity wasn't rooted in our actions. The root issue was our hearts.
    - Jeremiah 17:9 - The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?
  - When we have a faith, a trust, and a dependence on Jesus we give access and clearance to the Lord to do a surgical work on our wicked broken hearts.
  - If you're struggling with a behavior or action problem, maybe stop trying to change the behavior and instead give God access to change your heart.
  - It's only with real faith that we are affected from the inside out.
- Verified Faith Is Verified By One's Actions
  - **SCRIPTURE // So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.**
  - Our genuine action and reactions as a believer is the blue check of your faith. It's what verifies what your faith is rooted in.
    - How we react to the people, situations, and world around us actually reveal your real level and genuineness of our faith.
  - But where believers get it wrong is they just try to change their actions and how they appear on the outside (be more "churchy") without any real work being done on the inside. That is not real faith.
  - Your actions don't save you, your actions don't make you a Christian, your actions shouldn't influence your faith, you shouldn't just do things to look the part of following Jesus.
  - Your faith and the inward work of believing, depending on, relying on, clinging to Jesus should influence your actions.
- Verified Faith is More Than Belief
  - **SCRIPTURE // 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? Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works."**
  - This is a scary reality: belief in God isn't enough. Knowing God exists isn't enough.
  - Without genuine action with pure intentions faith is dead and ineffective.

- Demons know who Jesus is, they tremble at his name but don't surrender to His name.
- But we don't want an ineffective, non authentic, dead faith.
- We want a real faith, a verified faith.

\*Response

- Salvation
- Worship: We want a real encounter that encourages our faith.
- Action Step in their Faith: what is the Lord asking you to do this week?
  - Prayer Points (Cross)
  - Squad Sign Up (Table with Buckets)
  - Next Step in Faith (Table)