



## **Faith Without Works is Dead**

**Main Scripture:** James 2:14-26

**Additional Scriptures:** Matthew 25:41-45, James 1:3, 1:6, 2:1, 5:15, Genesis 22:2, 12, Genesis 15:1-6, Titus 2:10-14

### **Discussion Questions**

- **Read James 2:14-26.** What makes these verses so subversive?
- What role do works/actions have to do with real faith? How can works/actions play into having saving faith if salvation does not come from works?
- Pastor Mike said that there is saving faith and “that” faith and alluded to the orange tree and the little desk plant he used as props to represent these two types of faith. How can you tell the difference between the two trees, or in our case, Christians who have saving faith or “that” faith?
- **Read Matthew 25:41-45.** What you do doesn’t save you. You aren’t saved by your fruit but you are revealed by your fruit. Can there be Christians who bear fruit but do not have saving faith? What about non-Christians who bear more fruit than Christians?
  - Who then has saving faith? What then *is* saving faith? How is that defined?
- **Read Genesis 15:1-6 and Genesis 22:1-18.** “Deeds are not the source of our righteousness but the course of our righteousness.” What is the connection between Genesis 15:1-6 and Genesis 22:1-18 and Abraham’s faith and deeds? How do these two passages portray saving faith and the part that deeds play in that saving faith?
- “The righteous root will eventually bring the proving fruit of action.” If that is true, then a rotten root will eventually bring the proving fruit of action as well.
  - What areas in your life are you struggling with right now? (Relationships, anxiety, sin, guilt, intimacy with Jesus, etc.) What do you think the root of that problem is?
    - What are some steps to take to ensure that the root is pulled out and you deal with the underlying issue instead of just the fruit of those root issues?
- **Read John 17:3.** So what is eternal life?
  - Jesus doesn’t just want to get you to heaven but wants to transform you into an entirely new person NOW. How does this idea of saving faith interweave with this concept of eternal life as described in John 17:3?