

A Faith that Becomes Love

But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from works and I, by my works, will show you faith. – James 2:18

There is an important truth at the heart of the Christian faith: we do not earn God’s love. We do not earn our salvation by doing enough good things, serving enough people, attending enough worship services, or getting everything right. Our salvation rests in Christ and Christ alone. Before we ever do anything for God, God has already loved us.

But something happens when we truly begin to trust that love. Faith changes us.

When we recognize the depth of Christ’s love for us, we begin to want to live differently. We may find ourselves wanting to worship with others, not because attendance earns us anything, but because we want to be part of the community Christ is creating. We may join a small group because we want to grow deeper in faith and share the journey with others. We may discover a ministry where we can serve, encourage, feed, teach, visit, or simply offer a listening ear. Yes, none of these things make Christ love us more.

Christ already loves us completely. But the love of Christ changes what we do with our lives.

That may be what James is getting at when he speaks about faith and works. Our actions do not create our faith; rather, our faith begins to make itself visible through our actions. When we receive the love of Christ, that love has somewhere to go.

We do not have to do anything for Christ to love us. And still, the love of Christ will change us. That love slowly, sometimes almost imperceptibly, makes our lives begin to look a little more like the One we have come to trust: loving, serving, forgiving, welcoming, and extending grace.

Prayer for the week:

Lord Jesus, thank you for loving us before we could ever do anything to deserve it. Help us to trust your grace more deeply and let that grace shape the way we live. Show us where your love is calling us to worship, to grow, to serve, and to love others. May the faith we carry in our hearts become visible in the lives we live. Amen.

Grace & Peace,
Sam