

WHAT GOOD IS

JAMES 2:14-19

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: James keeps hitting hard. He now moves from the evils of favoritism or partiality to the exhibition of “dead faith.”

A “PASS THE BUCK” FAITH? If the Lord has given you a new heart and a new relationship with Himself, showing mercy to others does not wait to depend on begging from those who are in need of material or spiritual help or encouragement. Mercy generously gives and thus enjoys the manifold blessings of the Holy Spirit. The unbeliever snubs giving by expecting others to do the giving and proves that he is without genuine faith. (**James 2:14-17, fn 2:14, Matthew 25:34-40, fn 25:34-40, I Timothy 5:8, fn 5:8, I Timothy 6:17-19, fn 6:17-19, Luke 6:38, fn 6:37, 38, I John 3:16-18, fn 3:17, 18**) *How is a “pass the buck” faith a dead faith?*

A “PARTICIPATION TROPHY” FAITH? Your life in Christ is not a spectator sport, nor will you receive a reward or trophy from God for just showing up. The Holy Spirit is moving in you to serve others; and as you do, your reward is the wonderful assurance of your relationship with Him. Jesus calls us to be followers, not observers. (**James 2:18, fn 2:18, Mark 10:45, fn 10:42-45, I John 2:3-6, fn 2:3-6, Revelation 3:15, 16, fn 3:15, John 12:26**) *How can you be a follower and not just an observer?*

AN “ORTHODOX” FAITH? Our Lord uses the inspired Word of God to save and transform lives. The unbeliever may use intellectual knowledge of God’s Word to support a superficial faith. The believer should see God’s Word as God pouring out His heart to him. The unbeliever, without the Holy Spirit, misses the truths of God’s Word and the heart of God. (**James 2:19, John 5:39, 40, fn 5:39, 40, I Corinthians 1:18-25, fn 1:19, Hebrews 4:12, fn 4:12, I Thessalonians 2:13, fn 2:13**) *What part does your group play in your relationship with the Lord?*

Check up—How is your relationship with your neighbor, your spouse, and your Lord. Do your actions show that you are being led by the Holy Spirit?

