

## REAL FAITH

Dear Friend;

It seems if you put the word “real” in front of anything it sells more. Real coffee, real leather, real chocolate (I’m all for that!). Have you ever thought about real in terms of Christian faith? James talks about real faith – putting our faith into action. As a matter of fact, he talks about it so much in his book that his book almost did not get into the New Testament. The underlying verse to his real faith emphasis is this: “Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by actions, is dead” (James 2:17). Real faith is demonstrated by action. We are not saved by works but real faith is worked out – demonstrated by what we do. Everything from going to church (when physically capable), to volunteering in church, and showing the love of Christ in everyday situations. In John 14:15 we read: “If you love me, you will obey what I command”. Jesus commands we put our faith in action.

In the book of James, we discover four facts about what real faith is not. First, real faith is not just something you say. Do you know anyone who says they are a Christian but there is no evidence in their life that they are a Christian? Second, faith is not just something you feel. People will say: “A warm feeling just came over me” and/or “There was just an emotion I had”. Emotions can be manipulated and can fool us. Third, real faith is not just something you believe. I believe in the devil, but he is my enemy, not my friend. Fourth, real faith is not just something you think. Faith is not a matter to be studied, debated, or talked over. People are not saved because they intellectually get convinced of Christ, but because they respond with their heart (not their emotions) though they may show some emotionalism.

Real faith IS something you do! Real faith is not passive, it is a commitment to action. I said it before and I will say it again: Our faith is not determined by what we do, but it is demonstrated by what we do!

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayers: Vicki McCandlish family, Sandy Ratchford Family, Pastor Michael Muwonge (as he adjusts back in Uganda).

Events: Church cookout at the Dague’s this Saturday 4:00, Men’s Fellowship Breakfast Friday (tomorrow) 6:45am at the Tim Horton’s on Fodor Rd.