

## Send It - Week 3

### Faith in Action - Jim Burgen

March 6, 2022

#### Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation--encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

#### // Bible References

2 Kings 4:1-7; Habakkuk 1:4; John 14:12; Hebrews 11:1; James 2:14-24 .

#### // Message Summary

This Sunday we enjoyed our third week of *Send It*, our current series on faith. Faith is confidence that God is who He says that He is (in control, good, and loving) and assurance that God will keep every promise that He has made (even though it hasn't happened yet and we do not always understand how He can or will). This faith is not based on our current circumstances, feelings or expectations of what we want God to do for us, but on the historic act of Jesus dying for us and rising again in order to reconcile us back to God.

Faith leans on Jesus, and Jesus alone. It is having a level of confidence and assurance in who Jesus is and what He says is true - and this results in us acting, choosing, behaving and living differently than we otherwise would. In his letter, James wrote, "faith without works is dead." When we have faith, we no longer just believe differently, but we also act differently.

#### // Biblical and Historical Context

Pastor Jim read a short passage on faith from the Book of James. It is likely that the author of this little letter was James, the half brother of Jesus, and that he was perhaps writing around 45 AD - making it the first text of the New Testament to be written. James was most probably a Jewish convert to Christianity, and while the Jewish law frequently surfaces during his writing, he does not argue that Christians are under the law for salvation or obligation. Rather, he argues that the greater principles of the law - faith, justice, wisdom, compassion, patience, truthfulness - should be evident as fruit in a Christian's life. The futility of words without deeds is illustrated powerfully in his second chapter by the story of a man who wishes goodness upon his fallen neighbor, but does nothing to help meet his needs. James is emphasizing that we are not saved by a kind of faith that only results in nice beliefs, but by a kind of faith that results honorable action.

## // Community Questions

1. Aside from your faith, what is one thing you wished everyone in the world would believe?
2. If you could have someone else do one household chore for you, for the rest of your life, which one would it be?

## // Discussion Questions

1. As a group, read James 2:14-18. What stands out as significant to you?
2. How would you summarise the kind of “works” James believes is evidence for our faith?
3. Pastor Jim said: “The biggest obstacle to you doing what God is telling you to do is not because you are unclear on what God is telling you to do. It is because your fear of what might happen is greater than your trust that God will keep His promise to take care of you.”

What do you think of this statement?

4. What would our families, church and community look like if we all decided to “show our faith by our actions?”
5. When we put our faith into action in the way that James is encouraging us to, it sends a message to others about God. What kind of message does it send about Him?

## // Challenge

Pastor Jim raised the question, “What if God is actually waiting on you - to do, to act, to obey - in faith, what He has told you to do?”

Consider an area of your life where you would like God to move. What action is He also asking you to do, as an act of faith? Are you doing that?

If not, take the step this week to put into action what He has asked.