Grace Children's Ministry needs a few more helpers to help on Sunday Mornings just during the sermon and only every 6 weeks or so.

Go see Courtney Lotz in the back, or email her at courtmjohnson12@gmail.com

# EVERYDAY FAITH

## A WORSHIP SERIES THROUGH THE BOOK OF JAMES

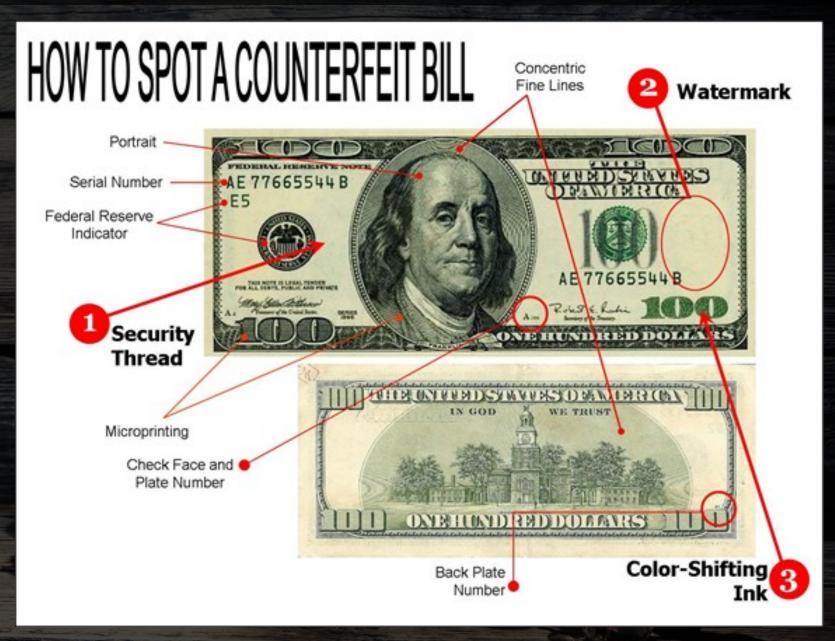
#### James 2:14-26

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? <sup>17</sup> So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. <sup>18</sup> But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. <sup>19</sup> You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! <sup>20</sup> Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? <sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?

<sup>22</sup> You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; <sup>23</sup> and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness" and he was called a friend of God. <sup>24</sup> You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.<sup>25</sup> And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? <sup>26</sup> For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

### Counterfeit vs. Real

Following the Civil War, between a third and half of all cash in circulation was counterfeit.



<sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

Helping us honestly self-evaluate our faith, NOT so that we'll evaluate the authenticity of others' faith.

#### **Functional Deism**

I believe in God but he doesn't really care about what I do.

#### **Functional Legalism**

I believe in God and need to behave in order to keep him happy.

#### Dead Faith

<sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? <sup>17</sup> So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

What we SAY we believe vs. What we ACTUALLY believe

**INTROSPECTION**, not Outro-spection to help us avoid false-comfort

<sup>19</sup> You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

Intellectual agreement + Heart Commitment Behavioral Submission We all struggle with focus: "I agree, but want to live my own life" "I just want to feel more Jesus" "I'll just be good"

So, How do I know? To know what you believe, look at what you do

## Living Faith

<sup>20</sup> Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? <sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father *justified* by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?



Justified #2 - "To Authenticate"

## Living Faith

<sup>20</sup> Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? <sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father *justified* by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?

#### Justified #1 - "To Create"

<sup>1:21</sup> Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and *receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls*. <sup>2:23</sup> (quoting Genesis 15:6)
"Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"

100% of our Righteousness if a Gift from God. Jesus Plus Nothing.

## Living Faith

<sup>20</sup> Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? <sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father *justified* by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?

#### Justified #2 - "To Authenticate"

<sup>22:16b</sup> "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> I will surely bless you, 2:24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.



#### The Results of Righteousness

<sup>22</sup> You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works...
<sup>26</sup> For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

Our behavior doesn't impact our Righteousness; Our Righteousness impacts our Behavior

"...faith can be no more separated from works than the sun from his heat." -John Calvin

"We are saved by faith alone, but not a faith that remains alone." - Reformation

### WHY "should" I?

**Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

 ReCreated:
 "Law of Liberty" - it is who you are and will make you come alive.

2) Thanksgiving Genesis 15 with God walking between the pieces for us

## WHAT "should" I?

Some come from a place as spiritual orphans and need to receive the finished work of Christ. Some come from a place of spiritual burden and need to simply rest in the finished work of Christ.

Some come from a place of self-autonomy and need to accept Jesus' proposal to live upward and outward.