

TRUE OR FALSE FAITH DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

JAMES 2:14-26

- 1 **At the center of this week's text (James 2:14-26) is this question: "What is genuine saving faith?"** Jesus spoke some of the most frightening words in the Bible when He said, *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'" (Matt. 7:21-23)* So it is vital—both for our own salvation and for those with whom we share the gospel—to be clear on this crucial matter. Take some time to think through these two questions before continuing with the study.

 What is genuine saving faith?

 What is false faith that does not save?

- 2 **If you have genuine saving faith, what is true about your life today, according to James 2:18?** Look through these other scripture texts and list evidences of saving faith: 2 Corinthians 5:17, John 8:47, 1 John 3:14, Romans 8:14, 1 John 3:3, Ephesians 2:10, Hebrews 12:6-8.

- 3 **False Faith is deceiving.** There are religious people who are dead-on convinced they have real salvation. But we must remember who is at the center of false faith—the master deceiver, the Father of Lies. If Satan can get someone to think that he will get into heaven because of his many good deeds, apart from faith in Christ, he is perfectly content to watch that person devote his entire life to good deeds. Or, if a person who was born and raised in the church thinks, *"I'm going to heaven because I believe in Jesus as my Savior"*—but, his faith is merely intellectual and it doesn't affect his daily life—Satan is happy with such false "faith."

 What are some questions you should ask yourself or others in your religious circle as tests of the genuineness of your faith?

