



Transformed Through Faith

[James 2:14-26](#)

Fourth in a 14-part series titled: *Wholly Transformed*

Pastor Matt Friend – January 27 & 30, 2022

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– OUTLINE –

Three Fictional Characters:

#1 – Legalistic Larry

- Outlook: “I can earn my salvation and make God like me more by doing good works.”
- Core Belief: Faith + Good Works = Salvation
- Favorite Bible Verses: The Ten Commandments ([Exodus 20:1-17](#))
- Prognosis: He’s building his life on sinking sand, and he is not on his way to heaven ([Matthew 7:21-23](#); [Romans 3:9-26](#); [Galatians 2:16](#); [James 2:10](#)).



#2 – Loosey Levi

- Outlook: “As long as I’ve had a religious experience, I can live however I want.”
- Core Belief: Faith = Salvation – Good Works
- Favorite Bible Verses: Ephesians 2:8-9
- Prognosis: He’s building his life on sinking sand, and he is not on his way to heaven ([Matthew 7:13-20](#); [Romans 10:9-13](#); [2 Corinthians 5:17](#); [Ephesians 2:10](#); [Galatians 5:22-24](#)).



#3 – Loving Liam

- Outlook: “Since I turned and trusted Jesus, I’ve not been perfect; however, I’m convicted when I do wrong, I continually repent of my sin, and I have a strong desire to love and do good to others just as Jesus has loved and been good to me.”
- Core Belief: Faith = Salvation + Good Works
- Favorite Bible Verses: [Ephesians 2:8-10](#); [Romans 6:1-4](#); [1 Corinthians 13:2](#); [Galatians 5:6](#); [1 Thessalonians 1:3](#); [Titus 2:1-14](#); [James 2:14-26](#)
- Prognosis: He’s building his life on solid rock, a firm foundation, and he will make it into heaven ([Matthew 7:24-29](#)).



Big idea:

Good works are not the means of salvation, yet they are the marks of salvation.

Today’s Take Away:

Ask yourself, “If I were accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict me?”

Recommended Book

[Be Mature \(James\): Growing Up in Christ](#)

By Warren Wiersbe





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– NOTES –

Introduction:

Today we continue our 14-week Wholly Transformed series, walking verse by verse through the New Testament book of James. What makes this book so interesting is that James was Jesus' half-brother. Much of what James learned and taught comes to us from Jesus Himself.

Several weeks ago, we began with a couple of introductory messages about where change often takes place (in an environment of suffering – [James 1:1-18](#)) and how change takes place (primary through God's Word – [James 1:19-25](#)). You can download all messages in this series on our [app](#), on our [sermon podcast](#), or on the series page [here](#).

Last weekend we started to look at what kind of changes God wants to make in our lives. First, we saw that God wants to transform our view of mercy ([James 2:1-13](#)). In today's sermon "Transformed Through Faith," we'll see that God wants to transform our faith ([James 2:14-26](#)).

Today's message is very simple. I'll introduce you to three people, then I'll give you one thing to know and one thing to do. Let's meet those three people...

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- Outlook: "As long as I've had a religious experience, I can live however I want."
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#3 – Loving Liam

- **Outlook:** “Since I turned and trusted Jesus, I’ve not been perfect; however, I’m convicted when I do wrong, I continually repent of my sin, and I have a strong desire to love and do good to others just as Jesus has loved and been good to me.”
- **Core Belief:** Faith = Salvation + Good Works
- **Favorite Bible Verses:** [Ephesians 2:8-10](#); [Romans 6:1-4](#); [1 Corinthians 13:2](#); [Galatians 5:6](#); [1 Thessalonians 1:3](#); [Titus 2:1-14](#); [James 2:14-26](#)
- **Prognosis:** He’s building his life on solid rock, a firm foundation, and he will make it into heaven ([Matthew 7:24-29](#)).

Big idea:

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Today’s Take Away:

Ask yourself, “If I were accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict me?”

Big idea (Expanded):

Other ways to say the same thing...

- True saving faith leads to doing good works.
- True salvation doesn’t result from good works; however, it does result in good works.
- The faith in our hearts is evidenced by the fruit in our lives.
- Faith and works are not antithetical but complementary: both are necessary and inseparable.
- Faith is the inspiration of works, and works are the proof of faith.
- “It is faith alone that justifies, but faith that justifies can never be alone.”
–John Calvin

Letting the Text Speak for Itself:

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? –James 2:14 (NIV)

Notes:

Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical



needs, what good is it? –James 2:15-16 (NIV)

Notes:

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. –James 2:17 (NIV)

Notes:

But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. –James 2:18 (NIV)

Notes:

You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. –James 2:19 (NIV)

Notes:

You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? –James 2:20 (NIV)

Notes:

Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? –James 2:21 (NIV)

Notes:

You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. –James 2:22 (NIV)

Notes:

And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. –James 2:23 (NIV)

Notes:

You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone. –James 2:24 (NIV)

Notes:



In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? –James 2:25 (NIV)

Notes:

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead. –James 2:26 (NIV)

Notes:

Remember: Good works are not the means of salvation, yet they are the marks of salvation.

Today's Take Away:

Ask yourself, “If I were accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict me?”

This is what the Apostle Paul urges us to do in 2 Corinthians 13:5, “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?”

In the text above ([2:14-26](#)), James explains that we can look at our lives for evidence of genuine conversion. Like the third fictional character in our introduction, “Loving Liam,” we will not be perfect after deciding to follow Jesus; however...

- We will be convicted of our sin when we do wrong.
- We will continually confess our sin.
- We will have a strong desire to love and do good to others just as Jesus has loved and been good to us.

Genuine faith not only brings salvation and forgiveness from sin; it also starts the process of transformation and good works.

Let us hear and heed the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:31-46...

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the King will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation



of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?” The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

Ask yourself, “If I were accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict me?”

Why do this? Because...

Good works are not the means of salvation, yet they are the marks of salvation.