



Dgroup Discussion Guide for August 21, 2016

Inseparable

Scripture: James 2:14 – 26

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

This analogy is a reminder to us. It tells us that like the body without the presence of the spirit is dead, so faith without action is likewise dead. There is no separating the two. Our faith must be manifested not only by words but by our actions as well. In the same way good deeds done without faith is likewise futile.

We should always bear in mind the triangle of God's blessing. The triangle begins with God, accepted by faith and manifested by obedience. You cannot say you believe if you do not obey, similarly you cannot obey what you do not believe. Both faith and obedience have to be present. It is only then that we will experience God's blessing. Faith without works is dead. Hebrews 11:6 tells us ***And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*** This shows us how important it is to couple our faith with our actions.

The questions we then ask ourselves: Do I truly believe in God? DO I truly believe that He is a rewarder? This is how important faith is. Without it we would have nothing to fuel our obedience.

Even Abraham needed to have faith before he became righteous. It was only when he believed that God credited righteousness to him. This we see in Romans 4 which tells us ***What does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.*** It was only after he believed that Abraham's actions were in obedience to God's commands.

We cannot simply declare that we know God and we believe in Him. In Luke 6:46 Jesus says ***Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?*** Again we are reminded, that it is not sufficient to simply say we believe. We have to live out our faith. Our lives must reflect what we believe in.

Jesus goes on to say ⁷***As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. ⁴⁸They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. ⁴⁹But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.*** If we just read the bible but do not apply it, then we are merely informed. But if we read the bible AND apply it, then we have been transformed.

It is God's desire that the foundations of our faith be strong and firm, so that when trials, temptations and tests come we will be steadfast and not shaken. But we must remember Ephesians 2: 8-9 which says ***For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.***

We cannot claim salvation because of the good we have done. Good works are actually mere by products of our salvation. It is because we believe that we are saved. And because we are saved, we obey God's commands. And because we obey, we are able to do good. These are our fruits.

That is why Paul tells us in Galatians 5:16 ***But I say, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh.*** If we live under the control of the Spirit of God, then we will manifest His fruits which are, ***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control.***

The Inseparable.





Romans 10:8-10 says ***But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,”^[d] that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: ⁹If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.***

We have to FIRST to confess. We have to admit and confess that Jesus is Lord. **AND SECOND** believe in our heart God raised Him from the dead and that we are saved. It doesn't make sense to declare that Jesus is Lord and not live out our salvation.

Many see Jesus as a task master. But He is not. He came to save us out of compassion for us, out of love. That is why His greatest commandment is to LOVE. (Matthew 22:35-38) Our obedience to God has to be fueled by our love for Him. We can never out love God. We can never out give God. But even if He is God, He commands us ***If you love me, you will keep My commandments.***

APPLICATION:

Patiently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	Time for a heart check.
	What do I truly believe in? Is Jesus Christ truly my Lord AND Savior? What is it that I truly believe in? Are my actions fueled by faith? Do I truly intentionally obey all His commands.
	This is an opportunity to again share the gospel with your family. Are you all in the same page when it comes to the fundamentals of our faith? Talk about your salvation and how God has transformed your life. Talk about the Spirit, how are His fruits manifesting in your life. Talk about God's love, how are we responding to His love.
	

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.