Faith Without Works – James 2:14-17

*What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 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? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

Is it possible to have faith but not have works? Is it even possible to have good works without faith? To the first question I would say no. If you have faith in Jesus Christ as your savior and He indwells within you, you will inevitably show forth fruit. You will treat others and Jesus treated them. Your works will define your faith. To the second question yes but they are not “good” works as only good comes from God and without God it is all as Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes “vanity”

We cannot work for our salvation that is apparent in Philippians 2:12, but we work it out. But we also must have works to show the change in us. This sometimes is not a conscience decision as it were, as most of us in this room who were once not Christian would not have given a second thought to doing some of the things we strive to do now.

Faith comes from hearing and hearing the Word of God, Romans 10:17. Our faith does not come from our works, but one must have works to show that they have faith. The thief on the cross in his last breaths praised the name of Jesus Christ in front of all who listened. He with His dying breath worked for Christ to bear witness to Him.

We cannot help it when Christ comes into our lives we find no enjoyment in the things of the world, but we enjoy working for Jesus Christ. We enjoy the blessings and sometimes the spiritual spankings we get from Him. We have a renewed hope and a love that is everlasting because of what our Savior did on the cross. Although we cannot match what He has done for us and our works do not even compare, we are to still work for the kingdom to fulfill Jesus’ Great Commission. CMTTP