



# Your Hand Matters

James 2:14-26





Questions  
are the  
answers



3 QUESTIONS

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3. I can't stand some people / work, or I've been mistreated **Q: If you came to Jesus with this problem, what would he tell you to do? (or what is he telling you to do?)**



# 3 QUESTIONS

James 2:14-26

{ her • me • neu • tics }

- 
1. <sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds?
  2. Can such faith save them?
  3. <sup>15</sup> Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup> 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?



# **1. James 2 (An Overview)**



# James 2:14-26 - An Overview

1. **Three Questions** (14-16)

2. **The argument - Faith without actions is dead** (17)

3. **The counter-argument** (18a)

4. **The evidences** (18b-25)

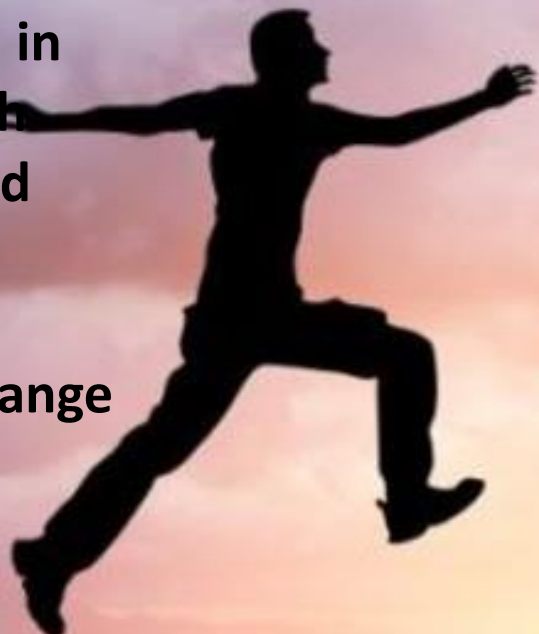
5. **The conclusion** (26)

the book of  
**JAMES**



**(Jam 2:17) ... FAITH by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.**

- Written to Jewish Christians (James 1:1) – the believed in Jesus Christ as the Messiah
- They were persecuted (and hanging on) for their faith (James 1:3)
- There was little inward change (James 1-5)

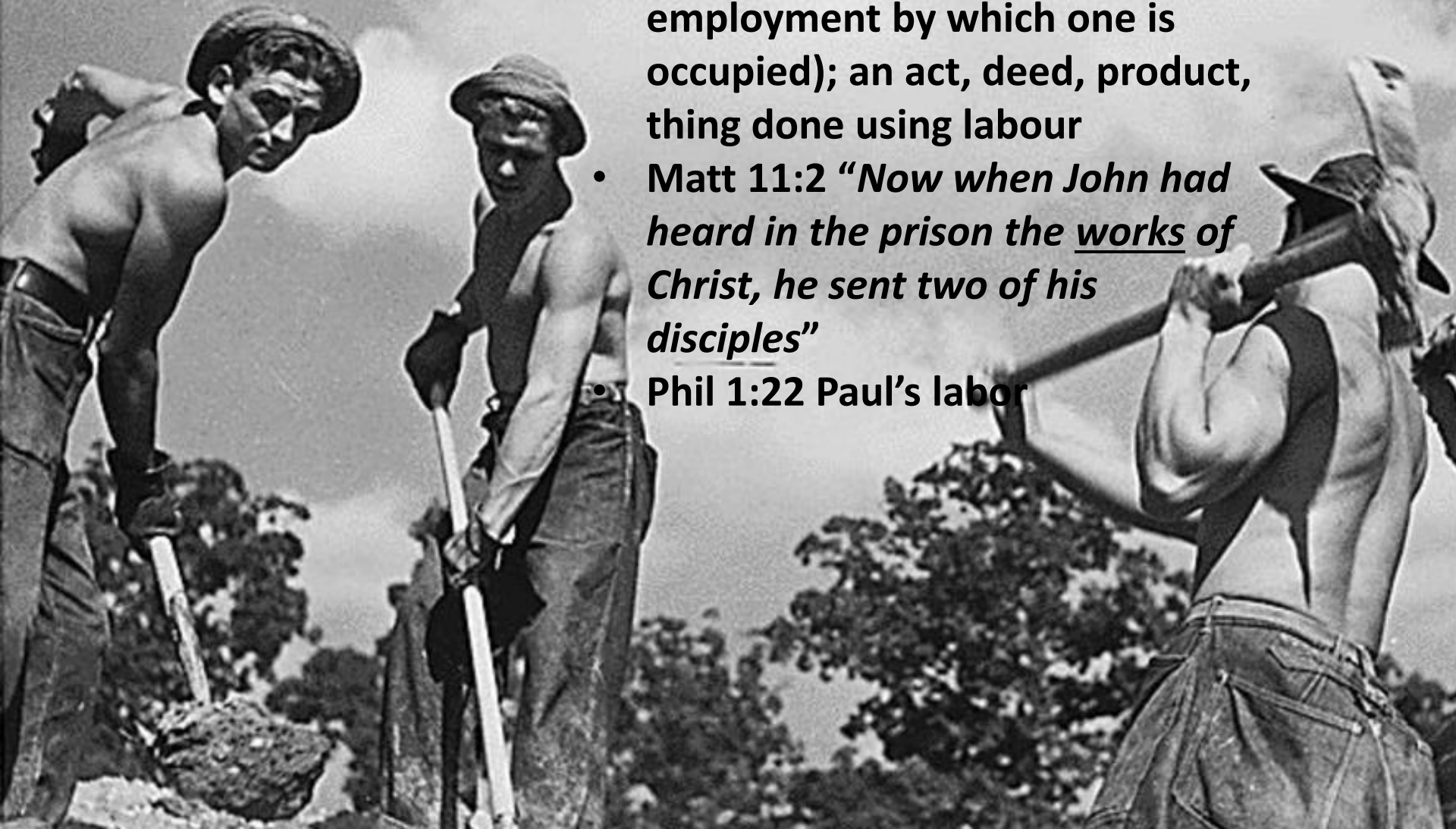


**From Law**

**To Faith**



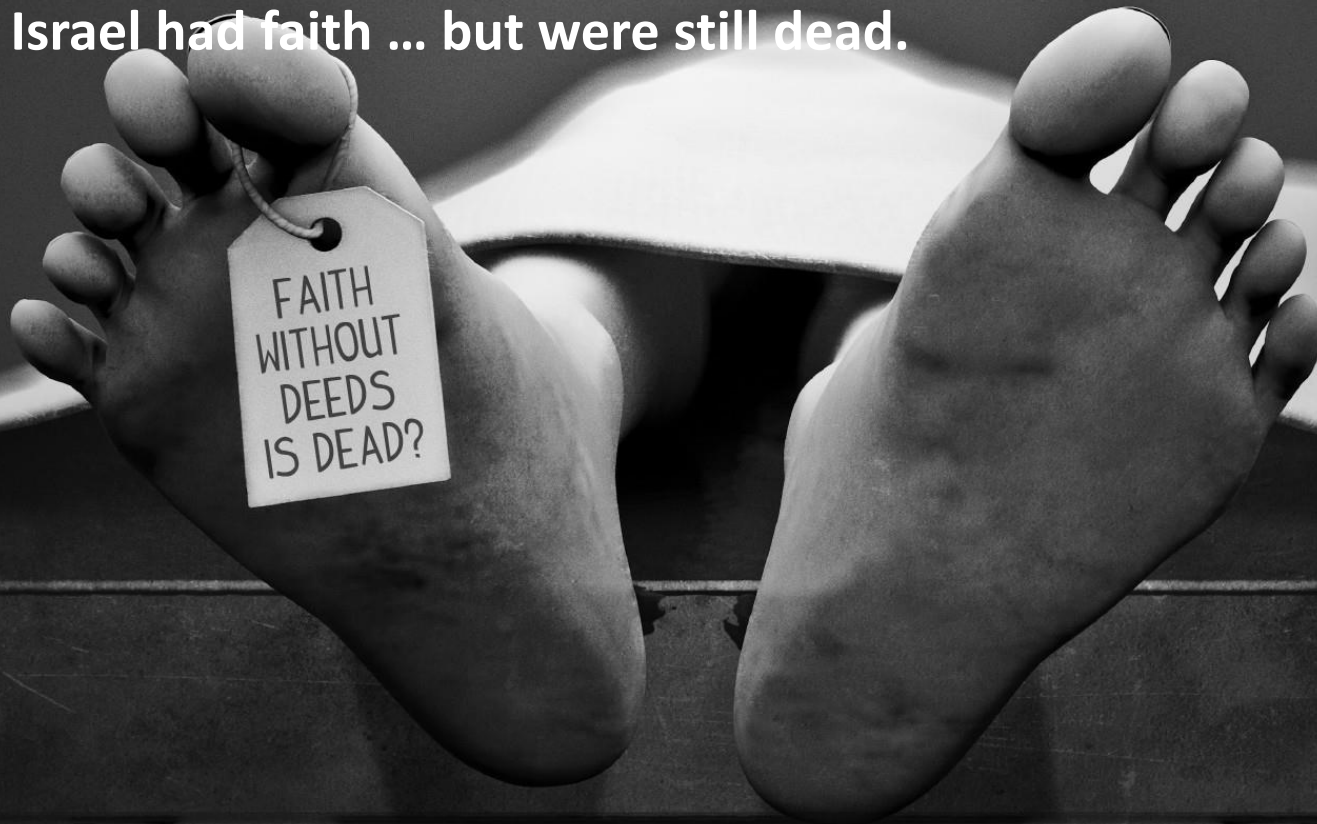
**(Jam 2:17) ... faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by ACTION, is dead.**



- G2041 (Strong's – to work as in to toil) (Thayer's – business, employment by which one is occupied); an act, deed, product, thing done using labour
- Matt 11:2 *"Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples"*
- Phil 1:22 Paul's labor

**(Jam 2:17) ... faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is DEAD.**

- (KJV) “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”
- G3498 (Strong’s - a corpse, dead Matt 8:22) (Thayer’s – lifeless as in breath his last; spiritually dead Roman 6:13)
- Israel had the Law of God ... but were dead. (OT)
- Now Israel had faith ... but were still dead.



# James 2:14-26 - An Overview

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*“You have faith, I have deeds”*

What the argument is about – a recognition & separation of abilities and diversity/difference

Spiritual gifts – some teach and some give; some administration and some hospitality/mercy

Some are action-oriented and some are thinkers

## 1. Personal example

James 2:18b *“Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.”*

Look at me; look at those who has faith by doing; there are *“Christians”* and then there are CHRISTIANS

# EVIDENCES

The Reason For Faith



# Why Stand Ye Here Idle?

by David J. Stewart

“...Why stand ye here all the day idle?” —Matthew 20:6

In Matthew 20:6 Jesus tells a parable, likening the kingdom of Heaven to a man who hired servants to labor. There was much work to be done and time was running out. The householder saw a group of people standing idle and asked them, “Why stand ye here idle?”

The Lord asks this question today to every believer who is sitting-on-the-premises, instead of standing-on-the-promises! Soul-winning is not a quaint suggestion, nor a commission for the clergy; it is a Biblical commands, a royal decree from our great King, Jesus Christ.

I've known believers who possessed a wealth of Scriptural knowledge, but never lifted a finger to win anyone to Christ. That is NOT Biblical Christianity. God isn't interested in deeper-lifer believers who never do more for Christ than fill 18" of pew every Sunday. I speak to saved Christians. Why stand ye here idle?



1. Personal example
2. Spiritual example

*James 2:19 “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.”*

*Matt 8:28-34 Jesus restores two demon possessed men - “What do you want with us, Son of God?” they shouted. “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?”... demons begged Jesus, “If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs.”*

# EVIDENCES

The Reason For Faith

1. Personal example
2. Spiritual example
3. Abraham the father of faith

In Jewish tradition, Abraham is called **Avraham Avinu**, (אברהם אבינו) “our father Abraham,” signifying that he is both the biological progenitor of the Jews (including converts, according to Jewish tradition), and the father of Judaism, the first Jew.

*James 2:21-22 “Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.”*

# EVIDENCES

The Reason For Faith

1. Personal example
2. Spiritual example
3. Abraham the father of faith
4. Rahab the prostitute



The other extreme. A women. A Gentile. A sinner.

*James 2:25 "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?"*

# EVIDENCES

The Reason For Faith

# James 2:14-26 - An Overview

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the book of  
**JAMES**



... is dead

James 2:26 "As the body  
without the spirit is dead, so  
faith without deeds is dead."

A repetition ... and a step  
further – body and spirit

YOU ARE REALLY  
DEAD.







## **2. Faith & Works (a deeper study)**



# FAITH WORKS


Check to  
this  
or a windows updates you might  
problems. ntin, disable or  
software. disable BIOS memory  
you need use safeMod to  
our computer pre F8 to elec





# FAITH / WORKS

**Works part of what justifies us before God. "Is salvation by faith alone, or by faith plus works?"**



# FAITH / WORKS

The mixture of works and faith to earn salvation is totally contrary to what Scripture teaches.

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.” - Ephesians 2:8-9*

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# FAITH / WORKS

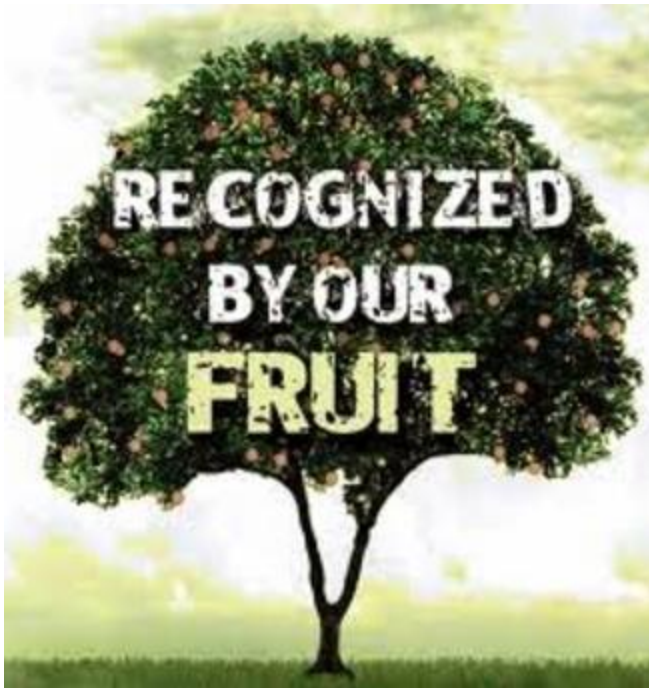
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1. Salvation by grace alone means that we did absolutely nothing to earn or merit salvation.
2. Salvation through faith alone means that we receive salvation through trusting in what Jesus did for us on the cross.
3. Salvation is God’s free gift to us.
4. Salvation gives all the glory to God and none to us.

# FAITH WORKS

**Matt 7:17-22**

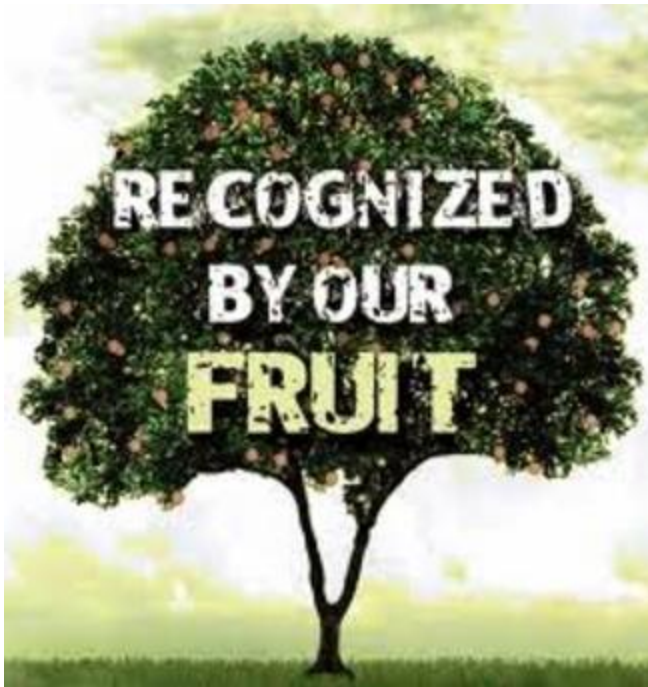


The second error is “easy believism,” the teaching that, as long as a person prayed a prayer or said, “I believe in Jesus,” at some point in his life, then he is saved, no matter what. So a person who, as a child, raised his hand in a church service is considered saved, even though he doesn’t show any desire to walk with God since and may be living in blatant sin. This teaching, sometimes called “decisional regeneration”.



# FAITH WORKS

**Matt 7:17-22**



**Faith without works is dead because it reveals a heart that has not been transformed by God.**

**When we have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit, our lives will demonstrate that new life.**



# FAITH WORKS

FOR AS THE BODY **WITHOUT** THE SPIRIT IS  
DEAD, SO FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS  
DEAD ALSO.

JAMES 2:26  
© NEW KING JAMES VERSION

Hebrews 11

# HEROES

AMAZING STORIES OF FAITH



# EVIDENCES

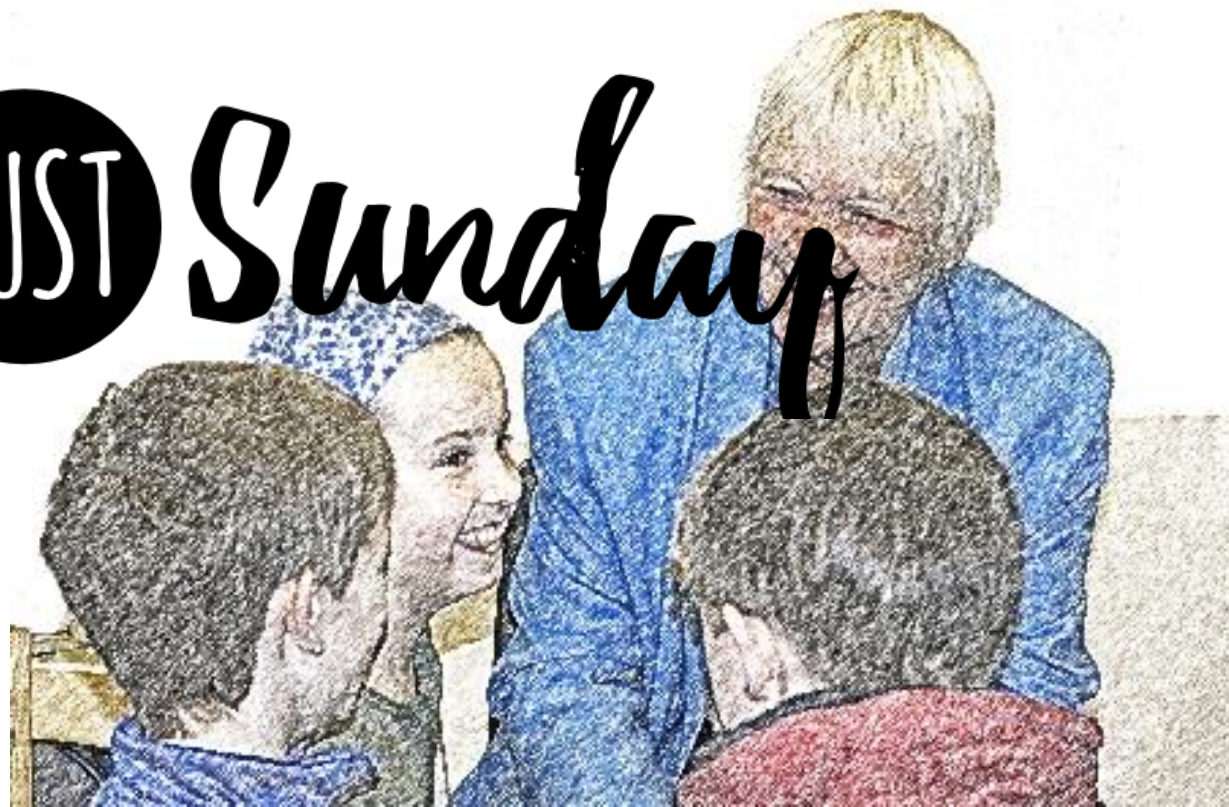
The Reason For Faith



# FAITH WORKS



Not **JUST** Sunday





# FAITH WORKS

It's not just a  
helping thing

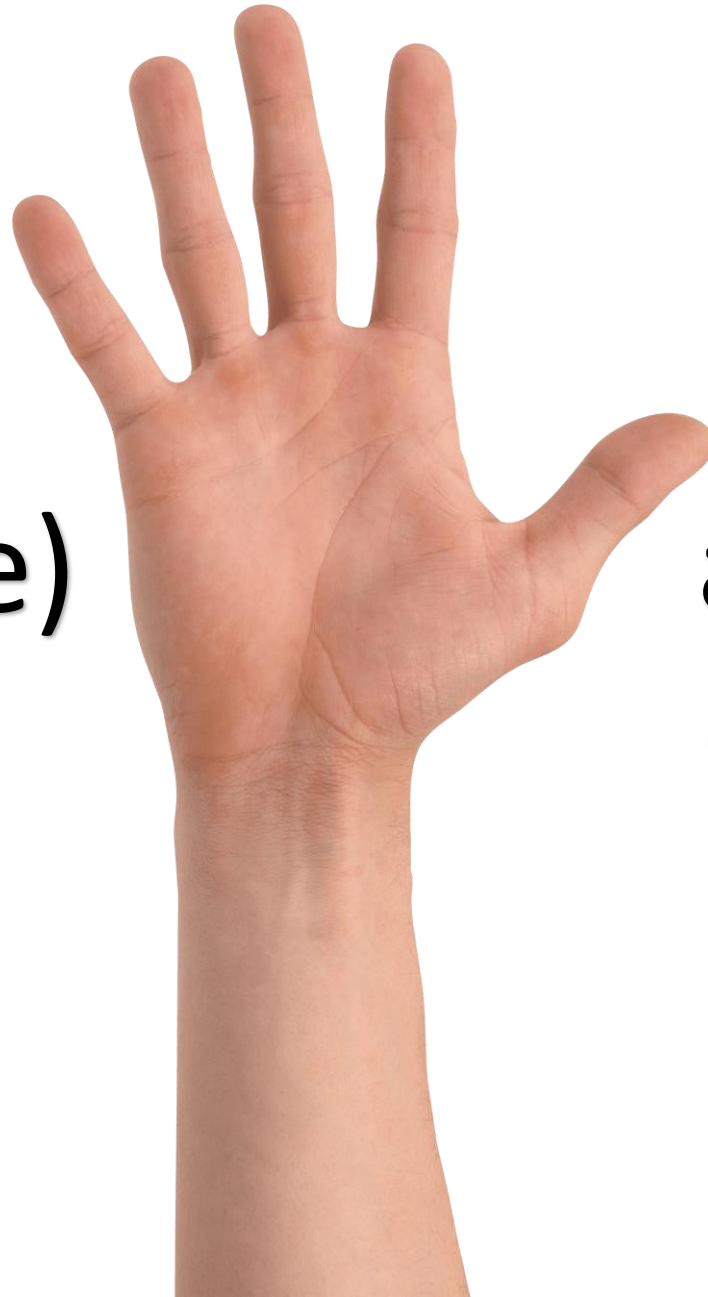


It's every thing

Is your faith alive in Jesus Christ?



Your  
Hand (Life)  
Matters



Am I  
alive in  
Christ?



### **3. How to Strengthen Faith and Actions (Application)**





God has already given you everything you need to make your faith stronger. I often think of the similarity between physical strength and spiritual strength. What do we need to stay physically strong and healthy? We need two things: food and exercise.



2 Peter 1:5-7 “For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.”



# Practical Tips “Your Hand Matters” in church (even though it’s more than a Sunday thing)



1. New comers and visitors – “no one” befriends them
2. Workers are needed – “no one” volunteers
3. Evangelistic meetings – “no one” invites (or prays and tries to invite) or offers to be counsellors
4. People (Christians) are broken, discouraged, needing help or mentoring – “no one” encourages, helps, prays, visits, gives, arranges

1. Be devoted to one another (Rom. 12:10).
2. Give preference to one another (Rom. 12:10).
3. Be of the same mind toward one another (Rom. 12:16).
4. Accept one another by withholding judgment (Rom. 14:1).
5. Accept one another by showing deference (Rom. 14:1–5; 15:7).
6. Esteem [highly regard] one another in love (Rom. 14:5; Phil. 2:3).
7. Build up one another (Rom. 14:19; 1 Thes. 5:11).
8. Counsel one another (Rom. 15:14).
9. Serve one another by showing deference in matters of liberty (Gal. 5:13).
10. Bear one another's sin burdens (Gal. 6:2).
11. Be gentle with one another (Eph. 4:2).
12. Be kind to one another so as to preserve unity (Eph. 4:32).
13. Speak truth to one another (Eph. 4:25; Col 3:9).
14. Submit to one another (Eph. 5:21).
15. Show compassion to one another (Col. 3:12).
16. Bear with the inherent sinfulness of one another (Col. 3:13).
17. Forgive one another (Col. 3:13).
18. Use Spirit-filled, Word-saturated music to teach and admonish one another (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19).
19. Comfort one another with the hope of Christ's return (1 Thes. 4:18).
20. Encourage one another (1 Thes. 5:11).
21. Live in peace with one another (1 Thes. 5:13).
22. Seek good for one another (1 Thes. 5:15).
23. Encourage one another to forsake unbelief and hardness of heart (Heb. 3:13).
24. Stimulate one another to spiritual growth (Heb. 10:24).
25. Encourage one another by faithful participation in your local church (Heb. 10:25).

- 26. Confess sins to one another (James 5:16).
- 27. Pray for one another's spiritual and physical healing (James 5:16).
- 28. Be long-suffering and patient toward one another (1 Peter 4:8; Eph. 4:2).
- 29. Be hospitable to one another without complaint (1 Peter 4:9).
- 30. Serve one another (1 Peter 4:10; Gal. 5:13).
- 31. Act in humility toward one another (1 Peter 5:5).
- 32. Show holy affection to one another (1 Peter 5:14).
- 33. Participate in the holy walk with one another (1 John 1:7).
- 34. Refuse to become resentful toward one another (1 John 3:11–12).
- 35. Give sacrificially to meet one another's needs (1 John 3:16–17).
- 36. Fight fear together by growing in love (1 John 4:18).
- 37. Walk in truth together (1 John 3:18; 2 John 1:5).

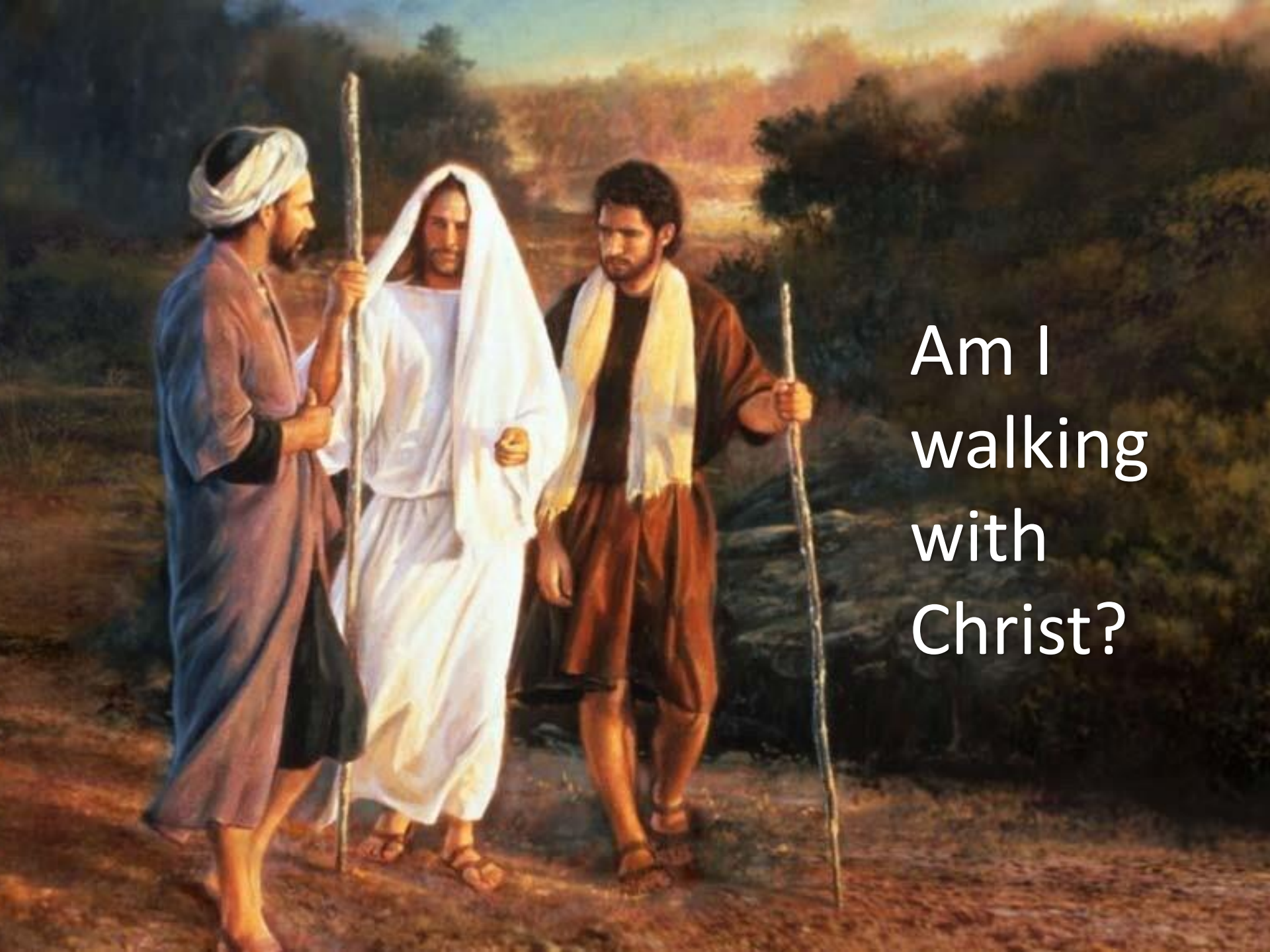
And let us consider how  
we may spur one another  
on toward

*love &  
good deeds*

Hebrews 10:24







Am I  
walking  
with  
Christ?



# Your Hand Matters

James 2:14-26





# 3 QUESTIONS

1. Are you really saved? Is your faith alive or dead?
2. Are you growing or stagnated? Are you walking with Christ or walking by yourself? Are you bearing fruit?
3. Are you strengthening each other towards love and good deeds? (as a church)