

**Fresh Start: Working it Out**  
James 2:14-25 and Hebrews 11:1-3

**Discipline:** Choosing what we want most more than what we want now.

**\*\***The second Friday of the new year (1/10/2025) is called quitters day.

How are you doing?

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**Theology of Trying**

**\*\***The reason most of us fail is because we've decided to try.

Trying is based on emotion and hope.  
Training is based on commitment and expects and prepares for difficulty.

Training vs. Trying

**Wisdom:** When we see like God sees, we do what God says.

**When we try...**

We quit when we feel like it - or an excuse comes  
that seems big enough to let ourselves off the hook.

**When we train...**

We don't quit because we are prepared for adversity and we expect that any goal  
worth achieving takes effort and self-discipline.

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**What is Faith?**

**— What is your faith fastened to?**

— What do you expect your faith to do for you?

Faith is not a force or power.

Faith is not a formula to make God give you what you want.

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- 1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.  
2 This is what the ancients were commended for.  
3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what  
is seen was not made out of what was visible. Hebrews 11:1-3*

**Hope:** wanting something to be... with no guarantee.

What makes us confident that 'hope so' will be 'so'?

**Faith:** Confidence that **God is** and **will do** what he promised to do.

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Music

Sermon Part 2

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### **Fresh Start: Working it Out**

James 2:14-25 and Hebrews 11:1-3

*14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have **faith** but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 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? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. guarantee.*

*18 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. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.*

*20 You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? 21 Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 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. 24 You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.*

*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?  
26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead. James 2:14-25*

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## **Dead Faith**

### **1. Empty profession (vs. 14)**

*14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have **faith** but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?*

- trials/testing (1:2-8)
- temptation (1:13-15)
- quick to listen, slow to speak, not angry (1:19-21)
- response to God's word (1:22-25)

### **2. False compassion (vs. 15-16)**

*15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 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?*

- warm yourself and feed yourself.
- I hope you find someone else to warm and feed you.

### **3. Shallow conviction (vs. 18)**

*18 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. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.*

- Show me your salvation.

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## **Living Faith**

### **1. Abraham the Amazing - (vs. 21-24)** (the father of the faithful)

*21 Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 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. 24 You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.*

**2. Rahab the Raunchy-** (vs. 25)

*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?*

**3. A Dead Guy.** (vs. 26)

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

— We don't listen, we watch.

Believing isn't enough.

People with dead faith substitute words for actions.  
Look how much I know!

**Show me your faith.**