

Faith in Action

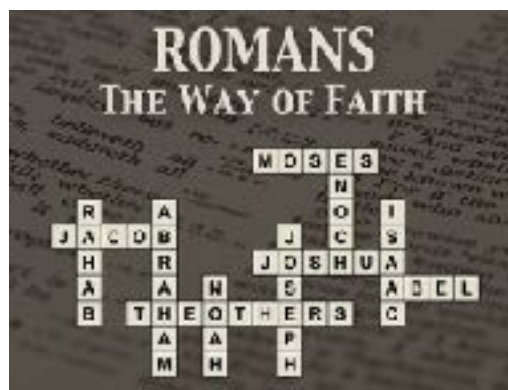
Faith shows itself in our actions. Whatever is within our heart can be seen in the way we live. We serve as Christ's representatives in the world through simple acts of kindness and grace. This is also the most important part of our witness to the world. Before people will believe the gospel, they need to see faith in action.

Romans 12:9-21

Marks of the True Christian

9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; **10** love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. **11** Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. **12** Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. **13** Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. **15** Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. **16** Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. **17** Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. **18** If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. **19** Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." **20** No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.



Observations

Faith in real time.

Whatever is in our heart becomes apparent in our actions. St. Paul gives us the full spectrum of what faith looks like as we live it out.

Saints.

The original meaning of the word "saint" was "different." Scholars believe it was first used for religious buildings because they looked different from other buildings. The idea is that things are different on the outside because something special is happening inside.

This is what faith is like. We live differently because God is working within us

Overcome evil with good.

People often say, "Fight fire with fire." But actually, the best way of fighting fire is with water. The manner of our living is to be filled with grace and kindness. This can change the hearts even of our enemies.



Your Notes *what God is saying to you:*

Questions *for reflection or group discussion:*

What person living now would you most like to be like?

Have you ever admired someone because the way they live is different from your own?

Where has it been most hard for you to live as a follower of Jesus?

What is going well in your walk of faith?



Renewal Services

September 3, 10, 17

“Day by day, we are being renewed!” (2 Corinthians 4:16)

September is a season for renewal. Our Sunday morning worship services of September 3, 10, 17, will be “Renewal Services,” special opportunities of worship to reconnect, recommit and refocus our walk with the Lord. At each service, both 8:30 and 10:00 AM, we will provide meaningful opportunities to invite God to work within us in a deeper and more powerful way. The messages will center around three simple rules:

September 3 “Love God”
September 10, “Follow Jesus”
September 17, “Live by the Spirit”

Fall Fest **September 24**

Immediately following our worship services on September 24, we will celebrate our first annual Fall Fest, a wonderful opportunity for us to reconnect with each other and enjoy great food, fun games, and surprising entertainment.

We invite everyone to join us for these services, and encourage you to invite your friends to worship and the Fall Fest on September 24!