

READY: RESUME LIVING

James 2:14-26 • April 3, 2022

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INTRODUCTION:

- A. COVID has held us captive for a few years! For most of us, if not for all of us, it has been traumatic.

I. WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

- A. There many things that we might have learned....

You have experienced so much...for nothing? Surely it was not in vain, was it?

— Galatians 3:4

- B. What have we learned about our faith?

- We have learned that our **faith** is more than just words we say.

What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it in your actions? Can that kind of faith [really] save anyone? — James 2:14

"Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter." — Matthew 7:21

- We have learned that our faith is more than an **emotion** we feel.

Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well," but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So, you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. — James 2:15-17

- We have learned that our faith is more than an idea we **debate**.

Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds." — James 2:18

- We have learned that our faith is more than just something we **believe**.

You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless? — James 2:19-20

- We have learned that **real** faith is something we do!

Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.

— James 2:26

II. MAXIMIZE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN LEARNING BY EVALUATING YOUR LIFE AS YOU RESUME IT.

- A. Evaluate: What stays, what goes, what needs to change?

This is what the Lord Almighty wants to do: Take a good hard look at your life.

Think it over!...Give serious thought to your ways. — Haggai 1:5-7 (Message)

Zeal without knowledge is not a good thing. — Proverbs 19:2

CONCLUSION