

# Announcements

**Discoveryland at 10:45am:** Sunday school classes for children age 3-kindergartners are now open at 10:45am service (in addition to 9am service).

**Sunday Evening Jazz Worship:** Every week, 5-6pm. A unique worship service with jazz music woven into liturgy. The musical prelude begins at 4:30pm with coffee, refreshments, and time for fellowship.

**Wednesday Nights:** Please join us any Wednesday! Everyone is invited for a shared meal at 6pm. U4IC (high school) and Ignition (middle school), and Kids Alive (grades 1-5) start at 7pm.

**Gospel Formation Classes:** Wednesday Night Gospel Formation classes have started. Classes begin at 7pm, immediately following our shared meal. See the insert in today's bulletin for details.

**Genesis Process Change Group for Men:** Helping you to make a real change in unhealthy behaviors, addictions, and attitudes. Get to the heart of the problem from a Biblical and physiological perspective. High-commitment small group sessions held for eight months. Contact: Randy Martin (rmartin.associates@gmail.com / (530) 852-5155).

**Community Groups:** We are encouraging our whole church family to consider joining either a new or existing community group, starting this fall! Or, take a look at our Community Groups anytime at: [valleysprings.org/communitygroups](http://valleysprings.org/communitygroups).

**Stephen Ministry Training:** Paul wrote, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." (1 Corinthians 3:6) Is it time to add more water to the seeds of faith that have been planted in you? Consider serving our congregation as a Stephen Minister. A training class is starting September 24<sup>th</sup>. More info: Laurie Whiddon (lauriewhiddon@yahoo.com / (916) 214-9588) or Mark Bryan (vnfsdad@gmail.com / (916) 517-3232).

**Text-to-Give:** A new option to make giving easier. Simply text "give" to (669) 333-5880. You'll be asked to fill out a quick form to get set up for the first time. After that, giving is as easy as sending a text. Try it today!

# Order of Service

16<sup>th</sup> week after Pentecost

September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## Gathered by God for Worship

Welcome

Call to Worship  
Psalm 100

Songs of Praise  
*Cannons*  
*Indescribable*  
*How Deep the Father's Love for Us*

Prayer of Adoration

## Renewed by God Through Grace

Confession of Sin  
1 John 3:16-18

Declaration of Grace  
1 John 3:19-21

Songs of Renewal and Gratitude  
*Jesus Thank You*  
*The Lord Is My Salvation*

## Set Apart by God for Service in Every Area of Life

Testimony: Dane & Daniel Sincere

Offering

Sermon

## Sent by God to Serve Our World Together

Song of Response  
*All Things New*

Blessing

<b>General Offering: September 15 - September 22...</b>	<b>\$ 21,740</b>
Weekly Budget Need .....	\$ 29,540
Last Week's Deficit .....	(\$ 7,800)
Budget Deficit (YTD).....	(\$ 161,218)

This information can also be found at [valleysprings.org](http://valleysprings.org)

# Readings

## Scripture

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup>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? <sup>17</sup>So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

<sup>18</sup>But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. <sup>19</sup>You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! <sup>20</sup>Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? <sup>21</sup>Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup>You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; <sup>23</sup>and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God. <sup>24</sup>You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. <sup>25</sup>And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? <sup>26</sup>For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

- James 2:14-26 (English Standard Version)

## Reflection

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

- Galatians 2:20-21 (English Standard Version)

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

- Titus 3:3-8 (English Standard Version)

Faith is not something that merits the favour of God. All the efficacy unto salvation resides in the Saviour. As one has aptly and truly stated the case, it is not faith that saves but faith in Jesus Christ; strictly speaking, it is not even faith in Christ that saves but Christ that saves through faith. Faith unites us to Christ in the bonds of abiding attachment and entrustment and it is this union which insures that the saving power, grace, and virtue of the Saviour become operative in the believer. The specific character of faith is that it looks away from itself and finds its whole interest and object in Christ. He is the absorbing preoccupation of faith...It is our responsibility to be what regeneration effects.

- John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied* (p. 112)

# Sermon Outline

## Can that faith save?

James 2:14-26

*True Religion*

Brad Anderson

*Can faith save the person who has faith, but no works?* (James 2:14)

**No: Without works your needy brother is still in need...** (James 2:15-17)

**No: Watch what you say about faith and works...** (James 2:18-20)

**No: Abraham had no friendship with the world...** (James 2:21-24)

**No: Rahab had no friendship with the world...** (James 2:25-26)

## Reflection Questions

(taken in part from the *Serendipity Study Bible for Groups*)

- What was the nicest thing a stranger ever did for you recently?
- How do the words of James 2:14-26 strike you? Do you find hope in them? Do they make you depressed? Do you find your heart cheering, "Yes!" What does your "yes" say about your present understanding of grace?
- What kind of "faith" is James criticizing: Intellectual faith? Invisible faith? Inconsistent faith? Incomplete faith? Orthodox faith? Ignorant faith? Inward faith? Why? Find places in James where these questions are addressed to give foundation for your response.
- What kind of "faith" is James commending: Ritual-keeping, works-oriented faith? Saving faith? Sanctifying faith? Faith toward God? Faith toward people? Why? Find places in James where these questions are addressed to give foundation for your response.
- From what you know about Abraham and Rahab, how do these heroes of the faith prove James' point?
- If Rahab and Abraham could be considered righteous, what kind of hope does that give to the Christian who knows he is not perfect?
- How is Paul's argument in Romans 3:28 different from James' point in 2:24?
- Where are you being stretched in faith presently? Where do you sense God's leading you into greater service?