

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## JAMES 1-2

I live in the middle of a forest, on a heavily wooded lot. After we moved in, I noticed these indentations all over the yard. At first I didn't know what they were. I thought some kind of rodent was burrowing into the pine straw. Finally, it dawned on me, these were tracks.

Obviously, some big critters were nearby, *but I had never seen them*. They were nocturnal. Then late one night I met them eating crabapples off a tree. Evidently, the suburban sprawl had forced them into the open. A family of deer were migrating back and forth across my yard. *But I saw the tracks, long before I saw the deer*.

I could tell you a unicorn lives in my backyard... Or Bigfoot... Or a herd of wild buffalo criss-cross my property... *But with no tracks would you believe me?* Real animals leave tracks. Imaginary animals don't.

And the same is true with faith! **Real faith leaves behind tracks.** It's not just a claim, or dream, or wishful thinking. If it's real faith, *you can see its tracks!*

This is the theme of the book of James... *faith leaves tracks!* It leaves behind multiple tracks. Faith shows up in how we handle trials, temptation, and money... It's more than intentions, it produces action... It effects how we treat folks less fortunate than us... Faith works... It effects *how you talk* and *what you say*... It doesn't conform to the world, but seeks wisdom from above... It walks humbly and prays fervently... Faith connects with other believers in meaningful ways...

**Real faith shows up in real life!** And if your faith doesn't leave behind tracks, *perhaps it's a unicorn faith*. It's a nice sentiment, it's wishful thinking, it's a figment of your imagination... *but the faith you claim to have doesn't really exist!* It's just a pretend faith. The book of James was written to expose **a unicorn faith. If faith is real you'll see its tracks all over your life!**

Chapter 1 begins, "**James...**" *But which James?* I can think of a lot of famous folks named James. In fact, here's the **Top 10 Most Famous People Named James**.

**10) King James, 9) James Taylor, 8) James Bond,** take your pick.. **7) Jesse James, 6) James Comey, 5) James Earl Jones, 4) The James Gang, 3) LeBron James, 2) the king of soul, James Brown...** and we have a tie for 1) **Pastor James and Vernon James!**

But there're also a few "**Jameses**" in the Bible. Two of the twelve apostles were named "**James**" - one "**the son of Alphaeus,**" and another "**the son of Zebedee.**" Acts

12 tells us that Zebedee's boy, also the Apostle John's brother, was martyred by King Herod in 44 AD.

And then there was a third James, Jesus' half-brother. Matthew 13:55 tells us Mary had kids after Jesus - four boys and at least two girls. Her second oldest was "**James.**" **Most scholars believe the author of the book of James was this half-brother of our Lord.**

This means James had initial doubts about Jesus. During Jesus' earthly ministry, John 7:5 tells us, "**even His brothers did not believe in Him.**" I'm sure James looked up to his big brother, but imagine having to admit your sibling is divine... *that's a tough pill to swallow.* It's often said, "**Familiarity breeds contempt.**"

Jesus and James rough-housed together - they were on the same Little League team - worked together in their dad's carpenter's shop. *Imagine growing up in Jesus' shadow? How could James possibly stack up?*

Like a lot of little brothers, he might've carried a chip on his shoulders... *Yet we know what opened his eyes!*

1 Corinthians 15 tells us, after His resurrection Jesus made several special appearances. And one was to His half-brother, James. Jesus cared about James. And when James realized Jesus had conquered death it all clicked. **His brother was God!** Instantly, James went from a *doubting brother* to a *devoted believer!*

And James grew rapidly in his faith. Known among Christians as "**James the Just,**" he was a leader in Jerusalem. In Acts 15 he takes charge of the church council. James was a leader of extreme devotion.

The church historian, Eusebius, wrote, "**James would enter alone into the Temple and be found kneeling and praying for forgiveness for the people, so that his knees grew hard like a camel's because of his constant worship of God.**" They called James, "**ole camel knees**"

In 62 AD James died a martyr's death. The Jews took him to the highest point of the Temple - *without a parachute!* They ordered him to recant his faith before all the people. Instead, he boldly preach the Gospel.

And the Jews were so angry they pushed him off the pinnacle of the Temple. When he survived, he knelt and prayed. And the Jews beat him to death with clubs.

When James says, "**Be doers of the word, and not hearers only...**" there was some street cred behind his words! *James' faith left deep tracks in the early church!*

So he introduces himself, “James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.” Again, James was the blood brother of His Lord - *on his mother’s side*.

And if a family affiliation ever counted for something this would be it! James could’ve flaunted his status, “*the Savior’s closest sibling*” or “*the baby brother of God...*” Instead he refers to himself as “*a bondservant.*”

*After spending his whole life in Jesus’ shadow, this is his chance to name drop and take advantage of their relationship, but no way!* James is only a servant. Like us, he’s a sinner saved by grace. It was honor enough to be “*a bondservant*” or “*love servant*” of His Lord! James now worshipped the Brother he once resented.

And he writes, “*To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.*” Twice in the OT, Israel was conquered by invading armies, and scattered across foreign lands. Many Jews never returned home. Little Jewish enclaves sprang up all around the world.

But as the Gospel spread it reached these dispersed communities, and many Jews believed in Jesus. James wanted to write them a letter of encouragement.

The fact that his letter is addressed exclusively to Israel’s twelve tribes could mean it was written prior to the Gospel reaching Gentiles, as early as 45 AD. This would make James one of the first NT letters written!

And its author cuts right to the chase. He speaks to the felt need of his audience. For no matter where they lived, the first believers were strangers in a strange land. They were blazing a new trail. Cutting a path where there was no path. The Christian way of life was sure to stand out and draw fire. You can bet the early Christians suffered heavy trials for their faith in Jesus.

Thus, James begins, “*My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials.*” Notice, it’s not “*IF you fall into trials*” but “*WHEN.*” All Christians face trials!

I wish I could say being a Christian immunizes you from hardship, *but it doesn’t*. James mentions “*various trials*” - *that’s different types from different sources...*

Sometimes we suffer from our own mistakes... At times the suffering is unjust... On still other occasions the specific reason for our trial is a mystery, *other than we live in a fallen world...* And at times, we suffer for Jesus’ sake... We suffer “*various trials.*” This is why we shouldn’t fixate on the trial’s source or intensity, but on its purpose. The only way to “*count it all joy,*” or be happy over a trial, is to be locked onto its purpose!

Which is why James says, “*knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*” The purpose of a trial is to create “*patience*” or *endurance*. The Greek term

“hupomone” means “to remain under, to persevere.” Trials provide resistance training. When our faith is pushed it grows stronger. Real faith grows **only under pressure**. It’s said, “No one sharpens a knife on a stick of butter.” You need friction. God uses trials to sharpen our faith.

For a time seafood distributors who shipped codfish from New England to markets across the country had a problem. In the beginning, they tried to ship frozen cod, but the freezing process robbed the meat of its flavor.

The answer was to ship the fish alive, in a tank of seawater. Even then the fish ended up tasting mushy and flavorless. *That’s when someone had an idea...*

The cod’s natural enemy is the catfish. So a couple of catfish were placed in the tank. All the while the cod were on the road, they were chased by the catfish. The vigilance it took to survive, kept the cod fresh and delicious. This is what trials do for our faith. God puts a catfish or two in our tank so our faith doesn’t get flabby.

And it’s interesting, in verse 3, James tells us the Christian **“knows”** this truth. *How would a Christian intuitively know that his trials produce endurance?*

Well, every Christian has been to the cross, and at the cross of Christ, God turned the *worst trial* into the *supreme triumph*. The heart of our salvation teaches us that God works miracles through trials! *It’s His way!*

Verse 5, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” If you’re in the midst of a trial ask God for wisdom *not to waste the trial*. Ask Him to show you what you should learn from the trial.

“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.” Doubt is like an ocean wave. It rolls in; then out - back and forth. I trust, then I don’t. I trust, then I worry. Real faith though is unfazed by circumstances.

To the doubter James says, “For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord.” *Doubt takes you out from under God’s spout*. Doubt forfeits His blessing. It robs us of what God has for us!

And in verse 8 James says of the doubter, “he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.” In his allegory, “*Pilgrim’s Progress*,” John Bunyan refers to the doubter as “Mr. Facing-both-ways.” That’s the literal meaning in the Greek. A doubter is a fence-straddler. On Monday he walks with God, but by Friday he’s right back living for himself. He can’t decide his direction and gives 100% to neither. He’s *an unhappy saint and miserable sinner*. God wants us to be **all in**.

Verse 9, “Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away.” Spiritually speaking, before God, we’re all on equal ground - the poor and the rich. A person’s money has no effect on their spiritual status.

“For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.” Wealth is temporary. As Shakespeare penned, “Golden lads and girls all must, as chimney-sweepers, come to dust.” Death is the great equalizer. We’re all here today, gone tomorrow.

I have three azaleas in my yard that once blossomed at Augusta National Golf Club. They were my son’s gift to his mom. They bloom and stand out for *maybe two weeks* before they turn green like every other common bush. So it is with the rich man. His glory fades quickly.

Verse 12, “Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.” In contrast to material wealth spiritual crowns last forever. And a crown of life is awarded to believers who endure trials and temptation.

Crowns on earth are worn by members of the ruling class. *And it’s also true spiritually.* A crown is awarded to the believer who learns to rule over his temptations. Resistance to temptation is a track mark of real faith.

Verse 13, “Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.” **Don’t play the blame game!** *I’ve heard folks blame their sin on God!*

Like it’s God’s duty to reach down from heaven, grab them by the seat of their pants, and pull them out of temptation. **No! Resisting temptation is our choice.**

And our choices trigger a chain reaction. “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.” God doesn’t cause temptation. It starts when we’re drawn away by our own sinful lusts. Martin Luther once referred to lustful thoughts as birds. He said, “I can’t keep them from flying over my head, but I can keep them from nesting in my hair.” Dwelling on an evil thought, tasting and savoring it is my choice.

For “when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin...” When an inner evil that’s been nurtured, meets an opportunity to be acted on, full-blown sin results. When the egg of desire is fertilized by an opportunity at hand - then presto you’ve got a baby on your hands. And *hiding that sin* is as difficult as *hiding a baby*.

**“And sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”** If you never repent and turn from that outward evil, death results. Your life spirals downward. *Full-blown* sin turns into a *full-grown* lifestyle. Sin is a slippery slope that ends in destruction. Jot it down, **sin always results in unintended consequences.** One day, you wake up in a *place you never wanted to go... with people you never thought you'd be with... suffering in ways you'd never planned... facing a nightmare you never dreamed of...*

Verse 16-17, **“Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”**

Here's the key to overcoming temptation. **You won't sin if you're convinced everything good and perfect comes from God.** Satan runs a second-hand shop. Why settle for hand-me-downs? God supplies the best!

Once an impulsive buyer froze his credit cards in a block of ice. Before he could make a purchase he had to wait until the ice melted. *It gave him time to think.* This is what we need to do when tempted - THINK! *Every good and perfect gift comes from our Father!*

**“Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.”** James is speaking here of the new birth. By trusting in God's Word, we've become a new breed of people - a new crop of humanity never before seen.

He uses a farming metaphor. We're the **“first fruits”** of a spiritual harvest! God dwells in us - and in the next verses He lists the tracks that prove God's presence...

**“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak...”** Here's a track left behind by God. The person He inhabits is **“swift to hear, slow to speak.”** After all, God created us with two ears and one mouth. We should listen twice as much as we talk.

Ever hear of the guy who spoke multiple languages? He was given the ultimate compliment. Someone said, **“He knew how to stay silent in seven languages.”**

In addition, God makes us **“slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”** **Rarely are God's purposes achieved by our anger.** Our wrath only bruises, and hurts, and further alienates. When we vent, we only make matters worse!

**“Therefore lay aside all filthiness, and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”** Notice it's the

*“implanted word”* - the word that takes root in my mind, and infiltrates who I am - this is what saves my soul.

Verse 22, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* DL Moody once said, *“Every Bible should be bound with shoe leather.”* In other words, the Bible is for doing, not just for hearing!

Some church-members are like professional wine-tasters. They smell the wine, sip it, and roll it around in their mouth, but don't swallow... That's how some folks treat the Bible. They *analyze it's presentation* and *sample its taste*, without letting it get deep inside them.

They have a superficial appreciation of God's Word, but their behavior remains unaltered by it's truth.

James tells us, *“For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.”*

Imagine yourself glancing in a mirror after eating a hot dog, and noticing mustard all over your mouth... *yet you do nothing about it!* This is the *“hearer only!”* We're alerted to what's wrong, but we fail to act. Some of us know the Bible *out the wazoo*, but avoid its influence.

*“But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”*

Under the OT Law people were bound to what it said, but they lacked the power to carry it out. Whereas the New Covenant, *the perfect Law of liberty*, as James calls it, not only *instructs us* but *empowers us*. We can now be more than hearers of God's will, but doers.

The next verses identify a few more of the tracks left behind by real faith. *“If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.”* Faith that *grabs hold of a heart*, also *controls a wagging tongue*.

And verse 27, *“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”* If you want to track a genuine faith look for both: *compassion to the lonely*, and a *desire for purity*.

As far back as I can recall, until she died, on Sunday afternoons my Dad drove downtown to visit his invalid sister in a nursing home. Dad would buy Ann a Coke; then

sit and chit-chat. He worked hard all week and Sunday afternoon was his only time to relax. But he'd make that visit, and often as he left the house he'd quote James 1:27, "*Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble.*" You can talk of loving God until you're blue in the face, but *real faith leaves behind tracks.*

Chapter 2, "*My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality.*" *Don't play favorites in terms of how you treat people.*

"For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?" Hey, on the flight to heaven the cabin isn't divided: **first class** and **coach**.

Jesus accepts us *just as we are* and *right where we're at*, and this is how we should accept others.

Don't treat the rich, or hip, or beautiful, or young any differently than you'd treat the poor, odd, ugly, and old. The *banker* and the *bag lady* should get equal love!

While in South Africa, Mohandas Ghandi, became impressed with the teachings of Jesus, and thought of converting to Christianity, *until he attended a church.*

He saw prejudice among its members, and concluded, "*If Christians have caste differences of their own, I might as well stay a Hindu.*" How sad for anyone in God's family to feel second-class! *It shouldn't be.*

Once a street person went to join a church. The pastor wasn't sure if the church wanted "*her type.*" He told her to give him a week to think it over, but the week went by, and still no decision. He then said he needed another week... and on and on this went...

Finally, in prayer the Lord spoke to the woman. "*My child, don't worry about joining that church. I've been trying for twenty years, and they want let Me in either.*"

Verse 5, "*Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? But you have dishonored the poor man.*

*Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?"* In Luke 4:18 Jesus said the Spirit was upon Him "*to preach the Gospel to the poor.*" And since Jesus targeted the poor we should be kind to them as well. *Don't show favoritism to the rich man.*



In fact, the wealthy are often threatened by Jesus. Folks who make money their idol, and assume earthly stuff brings fulfillment have no interest in making Jesus Lord. Put a small coin to your eyeball, and it can block out your view of a huge mountain. *This is the effect money can have on our faith in God.* It gets in the way.

God targets the poor, for it's easier for a poor man to trust in Jesus than it is for a man with loads of money.

James continues in verse 8, "If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well; but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors." The "royal law" is the law that reigns supreme, that's above all others. And in Mark 12 Jesus identified the two greatest commandments. We're to love God, and love our neighbor. And it's this love for one's neighbor that should prohibit the evil of partiality.

*As a Christian I can have a close circle of friends, as long as it never becomes a closed circle of friends...*

"For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law."

James is saying break one of the 613 OT Laws, and you're guilty of violating them all. The Law of Moses required perfection. You had to bat .1000. This is why in Christ we're set free from the Law - *for the odds of us obeying all of the Laws, all of the time, are zero!*

"So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty." Instead of God expecting us to obey all the Laws, He's put His love in our hearts. And living out that love is the Law we've now been called to keep.

"For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment." One day we'll stand before God. If we want His judgment to be tempered with mercy **then**, let's show mercy **now**.

Verse 14, so "What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith, but does not have works?" *Is there such a thing as faith without tracks?* What if a person claims faith, but his life shows no evidence?

Verse 15 tells us true, saving faith is not just words, but action, "If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?" A mere blessing doesn't warm or feed a man.

**“Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”** As we’ve said, **real faith leaves tracks.** A legit faith leaves an imprint. I’ll act on what I truly believe and say. Real faith - that is, saving faith - the faith that gets you to heaven - is a belief to the point of action!

Charles Blondin was a famous acrobat. On June 30, 1859 he crossed Niagara Falls on a three inch rope - *1,100 feet across the falls and 160 feet above them.*

Over that summer Blondin did numerous stunts from the tightrope over the falls... *a backwards somersault, he crossed blindfolded, pushed a wheelbarrow across the rope, walked it on stilts, he crossed at night, even cooked an omelet on a portable stove halfway across...*

But Charles Blondin’s most amazing feat on the wire above Niagara Falls came on September 15, 1860. Before crossing that day, he asked the crowd, **“Do you believe I can carry a man across the rope on my back?”** Everyone roared, **“We believe!”** That’s when he asked for a volunteer. And of all the folks who claimed to believe, none were willing to climb on Blondin’s back. Their *lack of action* betrayed their *claim of faith.*

Finally, one man stepped forward. It was Blondin’s manager, Harry Colcord. *Harry had already tied his future to Blondin’s daring, why not go all in and trust him with his life?* And this should be our reaction if we really trust Jesus. You’ll climb on the Savior’s back and let Him carry you. You’ll tie every area of your life to Jesus. *Real faith, saving faith, faith that gets you to heaven* - isn’t a spectator faith. It’s an **“all in”** faith.

Verse 18, **“But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”**

It’s true, **faith is faith** and **works are works.** Don’t turn faith into another work. We’re made right with God not by what we do, but by what Jesus has done.

Our faith is in **His** work. **Salvation is by faith alone, but if you’re really saved, faith will never be alone...** For it will be accompanied by works and loving action.

Some people point to a supposed conflict between Paul and James. Especially, later in verse 24 where James says, **“You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.”** That seems to contradict Paul in Ephesians 2:8-9, **“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”**

Martin Luther was so upset with the book of James he called it **“a right strawy epistle...”** He included it in the canon of Scripture, but failed to put it on the same level with the rest of the NT. *It was strawy, not golden.*

But the supposed conflict between Paul and James clears up when you realize the authors' perspectives.

**Paul was a theologian**, adept at breaking down abstract ideas. He deciphers steps, and deals with cause and effect... While **James was a carpenter**, he cared about end results. The procedures you follow building a chair, don't matter as long as you end up with a handsome and sturdy piece of furniture.

And this is how these two men dealt with salvation. **Paul** untangled its individual threads. Faith alone is the cause. While fruits of the Spirit and good works are the result... Whereas, **James** saw it all as one giant cross-stitch. He was so sure that faith produced works, he saw salvation as a package deal. If a life didn't show *good works*, then it obviously didn't possess *real faith*.

*Paul x-rayed the roots of faith... James admired the fruits of faith...* Paul says faith comes first and should never be confused with works... But James says works always follow faith. Works are the evidence of faith... Put both viewpoints together and you see a complete picture... **A faith that saves is a faith that works!**

Verse 19, **"You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe - and tremble!"** Faith is obviously more than an intellectual assent. Even the demons are orthodox in their doctrine. Just an agreement on the facts doesn't constitute real faith!

And here's a side note, the demons **"tremble."** The word means **"to bristle up."** The idea is a hair-raising experience. A demon's faith in God doesn't save him, it frightens him. His realization of God's judgment causes the hair on the back of his neck to stand on end.

**"But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?"** And here's an example...

**"Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?"** Abraham believed in God's resurrection power, but if he had not obeyed and been willing to offer Isaac how can we say his faith was real? If you pray for rain, then leave the house in the morning without an umbrella - *you didn't pray in faith!*

Verse 23, **"And the Scripture was fulfilled (Genesis 15:6) which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God."** Abraham was declared right with God 22 years before he was told to

offer up Isaac as a sacrifice. Obviously, his faith came first and stood alone. Only later, was it confirmed by his obedience.

“You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.” And in the context in which James is speaking, he’s right. If faith inevitably produces good works, then you can’t have real faith without works.

Again Paul broke down the Christian life into individual parts, while James sees it as a continuum. James isn’t worried about where faith ends and works begin. He sees both as an unbroken chain. Certainly, they do end and begin, but that’s Paul’s concern not James’. In his mind we are *justified by both faith and works*. How can you separate the *root* from its *fruit*?

Here’s another example, “Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?” It’s the same idea, her faith in God was validated when she assisted the Jewish spies who represented His people.

“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” And here we’re given God’s definition of when death occurs, it’s **when the spirit departs the body**. Once the eternal part of a person vacates, the body is an empty shell. It’s dead.

And likewise a faith that has lost its heart, and guts, and vigor, and zeal, and effort is as good as dead.

For **real faith leaves tracks**. Make sure your faith isn’t a unicorn faith - just an imaginary, pretend faith.

If you truly trust Jesus, you’ll live like it!