



Scripture: James 2:19, Genesis 12:1-5, Hebrews 11:8, Matthew 14:22-31

Hey everyone, how was your week? [Take some time to hear what happened in the student's week and then share something from your week that was cool or boring]. Regardless of your week, I am glad you are here now.

Let me ask you, have you ever asked yourself, *"Am I really saved? Like, for real?"* Maybe you remember praying a prayer at camp or at church. Maybe someone said, "Repeat after me" and you did. But now, you wonder... *Did it work? Was that enough?*

Some of us can relate to this. We've prayed the salvation prayer repeatedly. Maybe you just were unsure if it worked. You see, you can believe something but still not have it change your life. For there to be change, you have to take action! This is where the big question shows up: Am I just believing with my head, or am I trusting with my life?

Imagine you're standing in a huge crowd watching one of the greatest tightrope walkers in the world—let's say his name is Taylor Barker. He's famous for crossing impossible gaps on a wire stretched high above the ground. You watch in awe as he walks across with perfect balance, step by step, with nothing but a pole in his hands. The crowd goes wild. Then he takes it up a notch. This time, he pushes a wheelbarrow across the rope. Everyone holds their breath, but once again, he makes it to the other side. Then, just to prove a point, he loads the wheelbarrow full of heavy rocks—roughly the weight of a grown adult—and walks it across like it's nothing. The crowd erupts in applause. And then Taylor turns to the audience and asks, "Who thinks I could carry a person across in this wheelbarrow?" The people cheer, "We believe you can!" But then he asks for a volunteer and suddenly, the crowd goes quiet.

That moment right there is the difference between belief and faith. Belief says, "I think you can do it." Faith says, "I'm willing to get in the wheelbarrow." It's one thing to say we believe in God, to admire Him from a distance, to cheer for Him from the safety of the crowd. But faith is trust in action. It means putting your whole life in His hands, even when you can't

see the other side. That's the kind of faith God invites us into; it's not just applause, but surrender. And that's why asking, "Am I really saved?" is such an honest question because salvation isn't just about agreeing that God exists, it's about trusting Him with your life.

You see, the key difference is that:

- **Belief** acknowledges that God exists.
- **Faith** is complete trust and confidence in someone or something. It trusts Him, follows Him and depends on Him. Let's pray together and invite God to speak to us:

[Prayer]

Okay, just to be clear, I am not the ultimate judge. That's not my role, and honestly, I'm not qualified. Only God truly knows your heart. He's the one true Judge. My goal in this conversation isn't to decide whether you're "really a Christian" or not. That's between you and Him. What I do want is to help you think, to get you asking honest questions about where belief ends and where faith begins. Because if we are going to answer the question, "Am I really saved?" Then we really need to ask the deeper question. "Am I following Him in faith?"

Alright, go ahead and open your Bibles to **James 2:19 (NIV)**. We find this:

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

Whoa. That's a bold statement. James was basically saying, "You believe in God? Great—but even demons believe that. And it makes them tremble."

That hits hard, doesn't it? Because it means that simply believing *God* exists isn't what sets us apart as followers of Jesus.

James, the author of this letter, was Jesus' brother. He grew up with Jesus and later became a key leader in the early Church. He saw firsthand how easy it was for people to say they believed in God while living lives that didn't reflect faith. So, he challenged his readers not to settle for a faith that is only words, but instead a faith that is active and alive.

Now let's be clear: Belief is important. It matters. What we believe shapes how we see the world, ourselves, and God. But belief alone doesn't always lead to action. You can believe something is real or true and not live like it is. [\[Refer back to tight rope illustration.\]](#)

James was saying that real faith stirs action. It moves. It responds. It shows up in how we live. So, is your belief showing up in the way you trust and follow Him?

Let's look at some Bible characters that had tremendous faith, starting with the story of Abram. Let's look at **Genesis 12:1-5** (NIV):

The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

*I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."*

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

God called Abram to leave his home, his family, and his country and go to a place God would show him. God did not give him a destination on a map. Yet, Abram went. He packed up everything and left the only life he had ever known.

Hebrews 11:8 captures this moment beautifully: *"By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."* That's next-level trust. He just followed God. Could you do the same? Are you willing to say yes to God without knowing all the details?

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