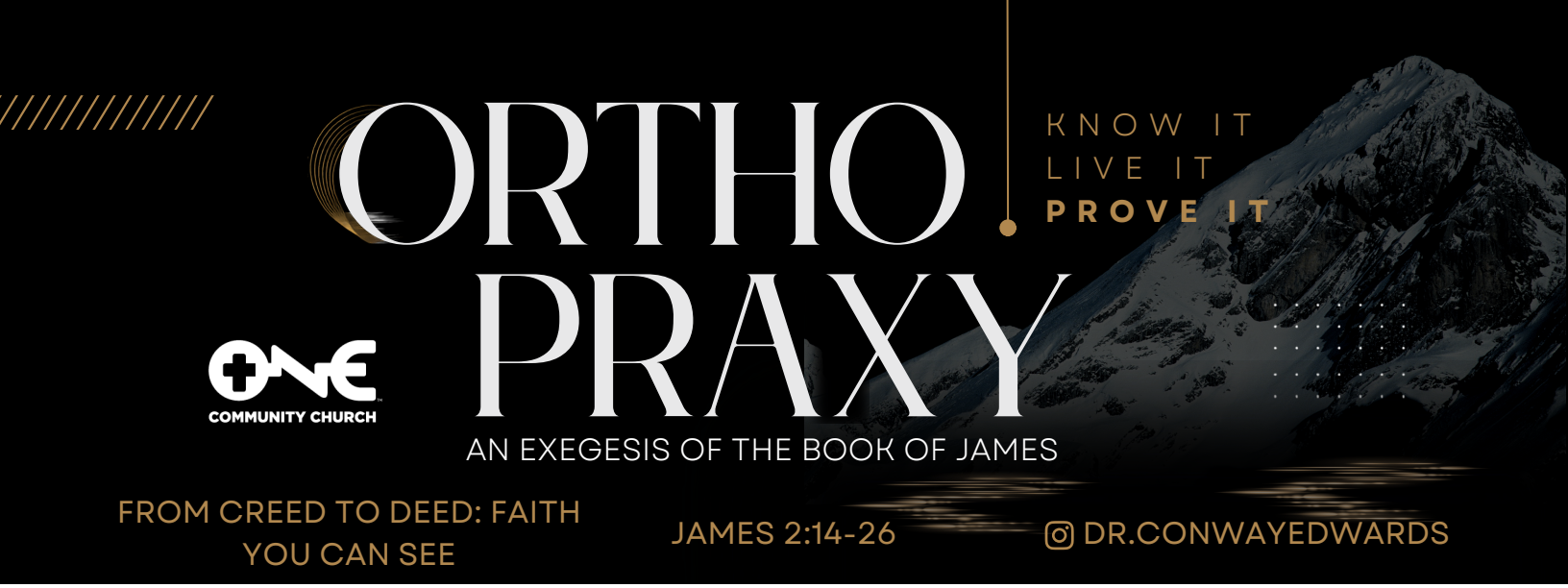

THESIS

God didn't call you to a faith you can only describe; He called you to a faith people can see.

FAITH AND WORKS HAVE DIFFERENT ROLES IN SALVATION AND CHRISTIAN GROWTH

PAUL'S EMPHASIS	JAMES' EMPHASIS
How does a sinner become a Christian?	How does a Christian live out their faith?
Romans 4:4-5	James 1:22-25
Receiving eternal life through faith.	Experiencing faith and usefulness through obedience.
John 5:24	James 2:21-22
Salvation is received apart from works.	Christian growth expressed through works.
Ephesians 2:8-9	James 2:22

GOD WORKS FOR US, IN US, AND THROUGH US

How salvation leads to transformation.

GOD'S WORK	MESSAGE	RESULT
FOR US Romans 5:8-9	Jesus accomplishes salvation, and believers are accepted because of Him.	Forgiveness and justification.
IN US Titus 3:5-6	The Holy Spirit brings new spiritual life and changes our hearts.	New desires and inward renewal.
THROUGH US John 15:5, 8	Inward change becomes visible in daily conduct.	Obedient service and spiritual fruit.

Digital Sermon Notes (available Sunday after 3p)

SERMON QUESTIONS? (469) 609-1909 (text/call)
gotquestions@visitonecc.com (email)

ONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

3 PEOPLE THIS MESSAGE SPEAKS TO

01
People who claim faith without surrendering to Christ.
Luke 6:46-49

02
Distracted believers who need to respond to the Holy Spirit.
Galatians 5:16, 25

03
Weary Christians who need encouragement to keep going.
Galatians 6:9-10

DEAD FAITH
James 2:14-17

01 Their walk doesn't measure up to their talk.

02 They only have intellectual faith.

03 They know the doctrine of salvation.

04 They know words but do not back them up with works.

DEAD FAITH CAN'T SAVE
James 2:17, 20, 26

Faith without life change and good works is a false declaration of faith.

Counterfeit faith lulls a person into a false sense of confidence about eternal life.

DYNAMIC FAITH
Involves the whole man.
James 2:20-26

The mind understands truth.

The heart desires and rejoices in the truth.

The will acts on truth.

Are you ready to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

Come to the altar, or scan here to Text JESUS to 469-609-1909

PRINCIPLES

01 Being around faith is different from being transformed by faith.
James 1:22-25

02 Spiritual growth can stall when someone insists on keeping control over what God is asking them to surrender.
Mark 10:21-22

DEMONIC FAITH
James 2:18-19

"Believes and trembles"

Intellectual | Emotions

Do we have this kind of faith?

We can believe the right things and feel deeply without surrendering to God.

Genuine faith goes beyond correct doctrine and emotional experiences. It produces a life of obedience to God.

FOUR FACTS ABOUT DYNAMIC FAITH

01 It's not indifferent, but involved.
James 2:15-16

02 It's not independent, but in partnership.
James 2:17

03 It's not invisible, but on display.
James 2:18

04 It's not intellectual, but from the heart.
James 2:19

10 REASONS WORKS CAN'T SAVE YOU, EVEN AS A BELIEVER

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01 **The standard is perfection.**
God requires complete righteousness, and breaking one law makes you guilty of all of it (James 2:10). Good works can't erase a single failure.

02 **Our best works are stained.**
"All our righteous acts are like filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6). Even our good deeds are mixed with pride and self-interest.

03 **Salvation is a gift.**
"The gift of God is eternal life" (Romans 6:23). You can't earn a gift. Once you pay for it, it becomes a wage.

04 **Boasting is excluded.**
We're saved "not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:9). If works saved us, heaven would be full of bragging.

05 **Christ's work is finished.**
"It is finished" (John 19:30). Adding your works implies His sacrifice wasn't enough.

06 **Grace and works can't mix.**
"If by grace, then it is no longer by works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace" (Romans 11:6). It's one or the other.

07 **The dead can't help themselves.**
We were "dead in trespasses" (Ephesians 2:1). Corpses don't contribute to their own resurrection.

08 **The law only exposes sin.**
The law was given to show us our need, not to fix it (Romans 3:20). A mirror shows the dirt but can't wash your face.

09 **Works-salvation leaves you without assurance.**
If salvation depends on your performance, you'll never know if you've done enough. Grace gives certainty (1 John 5:13).

10 **What God starts, God finishes.**
"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion" (Philippians 1:6). You didn't earn salvation by works at the start, and you don't keep it by works now. "Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?" (Galatians 3:3).

10 REASONS WHY BAPTISM DOESN'T SAVE

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01 **The thief on the cross.**
He was never baptized, yet Jesus promised him paradise that day (Luke 23:43).

02 **Salvation is by faith alone.**
Ephesians 2:8–9 says we're saved through faith, not works. If baptism were required, it would be a work added to grace.

03 **Cornelius was saved before baptism.**
The Holy Spirit fell on his household while Peter was still preaching, and then they were baptized (Acts 10:44–48). God received them before the water did.

04 **Paul separated baptism from the gospel.**
"Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel" (1 Corinthians 1:17). If baptism saved, it would be part of the gospel itself.

05 **Dozens of salvation verses never mention baptism.**
John 3:16, John 5:24, Romans 10:9–10 and Acts 16:31 all tie salvation to believing alone.

06 **The Spirit seals at belief.**
"When you believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit" (Ephesians 1:13). The sealing comes at faith, not at the water.

07 **It's a picture, not the power.**
Baptism portrays death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:3–4). A wedding ring symbolizes the marriage but doesn't create it.

08 **Peter says what actually saves.**
1 Peter 3:21 clarifies it's "not the removal of dirt from the body, but the pledge of a good conscience toward God... through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." The resurrection saves, and baptism responds to it.

09 **Simon the sorcerer was baptized but lost.**
He was baptized, yet Peter told him his heart wasn't right and he was still "in the bond of iniquity" (Acts 8:13, 20–23).

10 **Abraham's pattern.**
He was declared righteous before he was circumcised. The sign confirmed righteousness he already had by faith (Romans 4:9–11). Baptism works the same way.