



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

DEMONIC FAITH

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Demonic faith is a faith possessed and controlled by the power of the demons. Everyone has faith in God. It is what one believes in. Demons too have faith in God, but what they believe doesn't save us. We are confused when it comes to the truth: God's redeeming truth. God continues the warning against having a helpless or dead faith. In order not to fall into the trap of demonic faith, we must have the knowledge and understanding who the demons are and must be able to use faith with action (obedience) that needs to be emulated to attain salvation.

1. Demons as spirits

1.1 The demons, who were formerly host of angels are spirits being created by God to serve Him. They were formerly host of angels with Lucifer as head of the angelic host. These good angels followed Lucifer in his rebellion against God. They are powerful spirits who serve Satan and its evil purposes on earth.

1.2 St. James continues the warning against having a lifeless, dead faith reminding us that even Satan, our adversary and its legion of demons believe in God. Unfortunately, they do not obey God (Jm. 2:18-20) because they still rebel. They don't repent. Therefore, without obedience our faith is demonic faith.

2. Faith without action

2.1 Faith without work is dead. It does not profit a man if he has faith but lacks work/action. Both faith and work/action are important in salvation (Jas.2:19).

2.2 We practice our faith in action through receiving the sacraments, praying for someone who has wronged us, avoiding gossip, standing up for someone, limiting our TV time and social media, and donating to charity. We do all these and do so with a heart for Christ.

2.3 Thus, Jesus Christ is the only one who deserves credit for doing the work of salvation.

2.4 Work, on the other hand, is the evidence of genuine salvation.

3. Satan as the fallen angel

3.1 Satan is the father of lies (Jn. 8:44). He and his fallen angels know a great deal about Scripture, God, Christ and salvation.

3.2 The Word of God, the Bible, shows us the way to salvation. We should walk in His ways, so that we can be transformed into His likeness, and walk in the fear of the Lord (Hos.4:6).

3.3 Satan attempted to twist these very Words when tempting Christ (Mt.4:5-6) and he will destroy, steal our faith, joy, and unity (Jn.10:10).

4. Faith with Action

4.1 Not everyone who says Lord, Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven. They acknowledge who Jesus is, but they have no relationship with Him. Jesus rejected them, for He never knew them (Mt.7:21-23). They are rebellious and unrepented, and they do not love Him.

4.2 Therefore, we need to do something to complete our faith in God: make time each day to talk to Jesus; read devotionals; study the Bible; pray and write in a journal to make us feel close to Jesus.

4.3 Finally, when we pray, let us praise Jesus for His goodness, and ask him to strengthen our faith.

Conclusion:

True saving faith cannot merely be based on knowledge and facts. Salvation must include repentance and trust in Christ Jesus, for deliverance from the penalty of sin. It is the grace of God that we need and that changes everything.

Reflection:

1. What action have you taken to attain salvation?
2. What have you done to make yourself closer to Jesus?
3. What trials have you encountered that affect your faith and how did you endure these trials?

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faith # salvation # repentance # deliverance