

# PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path"  
Psalm 119:104*

April 14, 2019

## It Does Make a Difference

by Frank Himmel

"Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being only acquainted with the baptism of John" (Acts 18:24-25).

Apollos effectively taught much truth. Did it make a difference that his belief and teaching about baptism were wrong? Yes, it did. Priscilla and Aquila took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately (v. 26).

"Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?' And they said to him, 'No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.' And he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' And they said, 'Into John's baptism'" (Acts 19:1b-3).

These disciples' baptism was correct in some ways: it was immersion in water of penitent believers for forgiveness of sins. Did it matter that it was not correct in some other aspects? Yes, it did. Paul explained to them how John's baptism was different than what

Jesus requires under the great commission. "When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus" (v. 5).

What is baptism? Who should be baptized? When and why should one be baptized? Most every church today practices something they call baptism, but the answers to these questions (and therefore common practices) differ widely. Does it make a difference? Perhaps many would say it does not. These New Testament examples say otherwise. Get out your Bible, read what it says about baptism, and make certain you have obeyed. ■

## Spiritual Red Flags



Bible lessons presented by  
**John McPherson**

**April 12-14**

Friday, 7:00 pm: *Envyng Sinners*

♪ Saturday, 6:00 pm: *Singing directed by Tim Stevens* ♪

Saturday, 7:00 pm: *Sinning Without Godly Sorrow*

Sunday, 9:30 am: *Seeking the "New": Changing Positions*

Sunday, 10:00 am: *Rejecting "Doctrine"*

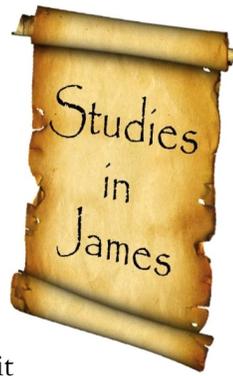
Sunday, 11:00 am: *Declining in Spiritual Behaviors*

### Church of Christ

3791 Viking Drive • Bossier City 71111  
[www.vikingdrivechurchofchrist.com](http://www.vikingdrivechurchofchrist.com)

# Talking about Faith

by Frank Himmel



Faith is fundamental. Without it no one can please God (Hebrews 11:6). The sinner is saved by it (Ephesians 2:8-9), and the saint walks by it (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Faith comes by hearing God’s word (Romans 10:17). It is not, as popularly depicted, a “blind leap”; quite the opposite, it is a conviction based on solid evidence.

Do I have faith... saving faith? How do I know? How will it show in my life? In chapter 2 of his letter, James helps us answer these vital questions.

To begin with, we must do more than talk about faith. “What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?” (v. 14).

There a number of ways someone might say he has faith. He might say it to himself. He might acknowledge it to others or answer in the affirmative in a survey about faith. He might sing about it (a “gospel” song is often included in country music shows). He might even occasionally say it to God by joining in a prayer.

To be sure, God wants us to talk about our faith. Confessing our faith in Jesus is part of our salvation (Romans 10:9-10). Talking to others about what we believe is the divine plan for spreading the gospel (2 Timothy 2:2). Jesus warned that if we will not confess Him before enemies, neither will He confess us before the Father (Matthew 10:32-33).

James cautions, however, that the expression of saving faith is more than just talk. Faith must show itself in our walk, not just our talk. James illustrates it this way:

If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,’ and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so faith if it has no works, is dead, being by itself (vv. 15-17).

Merely talking about the solution to a poor brother’s need obviously does nothing to satisfy it. Talk is useless if not accompanied by appropriate action. The same thing is true of faith. If all we do is talk about it, our faith is as dead as the self-proclaimed but hollow brotherly concern in James’s illustration. ■

**Faith is believing what God says simply because it is God who says it.**

Service Leaders for the Week		
	Sunday	Wednesday
GREETER	Adam Gibson	Bruce Williams
SONG LEADER	Tim Stevens	David Gray
OPENING PRAYER	Sam Walters	
LORD’S SUPPER		
BREAD	Frank Himmel	
CUP	Brian Wilson	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Steven Reeves	
SERMON/INVITATION	John McPherson	David Gray
CLOSING PRAYER	Jason Chandler	John Baucom