



Sermon





**What one thing would you blame
for the current predicament
of our national church?**

James

... a servant of God and of the Lord
... Christ,
... twelve tribes scattered among the

and Temptations

... my brothers, because
... trials of many kinds. Perseverance must
... the testing of your faith
... so that you may be mature
... not lacking anything. If any
... lacks wisdom, let him ask God,
... who gives to all liberally
... and without reproach, and it shall be given him.

Everyone should be quick to listen,
slow to speak and slow to become angry,<
because a man's anger does not bring about the righteousness
of God. Be slow to anger, for the anger of the Lord is
kindled, and he will punish you. Do not sin with the tongue,
speaking as if you were angry, for such a man will defile
his conversation. Do not let your anger be kindled,
for the Lord is angry with you, and he will punish you,
as the Lord is angry with you, and he will punish you,
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FAITH WITHOUT DEEDS IS DEAD

- ‘faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead’ (v17)
 - ‘faith without deeds is useless’ (v20)
 - ‘a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone’ (v24)
 - ‘faith without deeds is dead’ (v26)

FAITH WITHOUT DEEDS IS DEAD

ILLUSTRATION 1 – James 2v14-17

‘What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.’

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ILLUSTRATION 1 – James 2v14-17

Do you claim to have faith?

Is your faith alive or dead?

FAITH WITHOUT DEEDS IS DEAD

ILLUSTRATION 2 – James 2v18-20

‘But someone will say, ‘You have faith; I have deeds.’

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder. You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?’

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ILLUSTRATION 2 – James 2v18-20

‘Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one...’ (Deut. 6:4)

‘...Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.’ (Deut. 6:5)





FAITH WITHOUT DEEDS IS DEAD

ILLUSTRATION 2 – James 2v18-20

*‘Mercy there was great,
and grace was free;
pardon there was multiplied to me;
there my burdened soul found liberty,
at Calvary.’*

- William R. Newell (1895)

FAITH WITHOUT DEEDS IS DEAD

ILLUSTRATION 3 – James 2v21-24

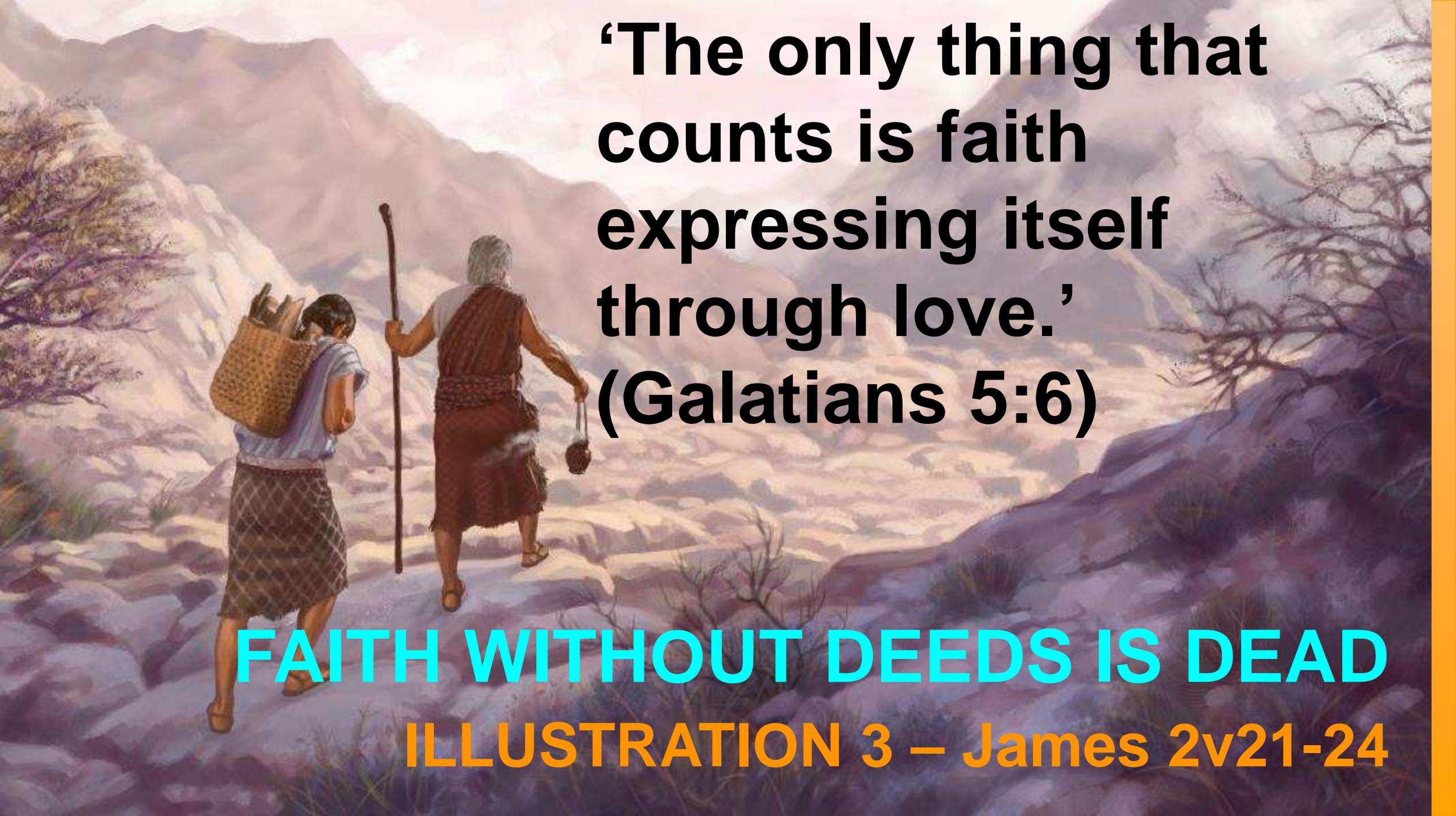
‘Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,’ and he was called God’s friend. You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.’

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ILLUSTRATION 3 – James 2v21-24

‘You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.’ (James 2:24)

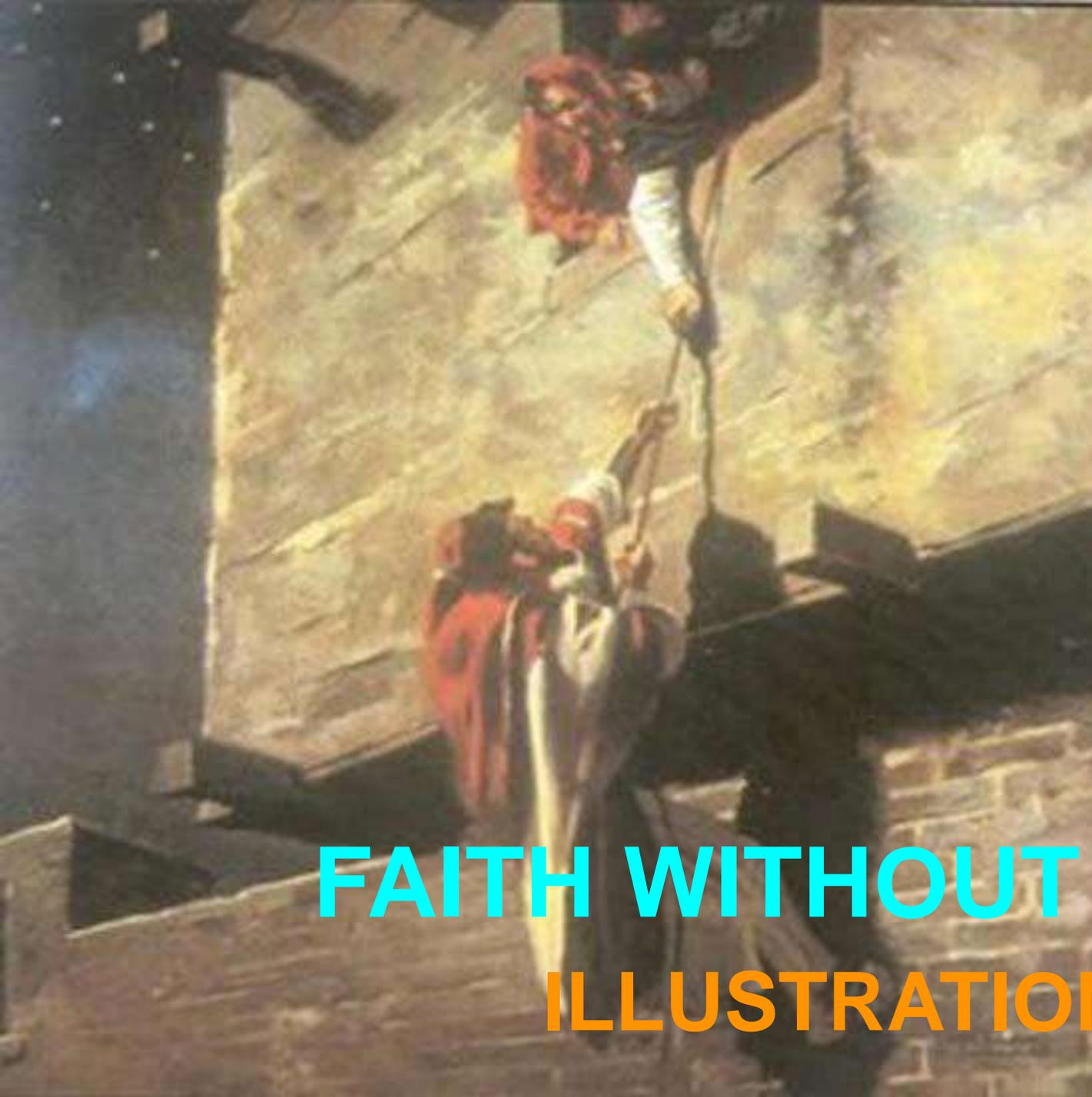
‘For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.’ (Romans 3:28)



**‘The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.’
(Galatians 5:6)**

FAITH WITHOUT DEEDS IS DEAD

ILLUSTRATION 3 – James 2v21-24



**Faith
leading to
radical
obedience**

FAITH WITHOUT DEEDS IS DEAD

ILLUSTRATION 4 – James 2v25-26



**Where
are you
serving
the
purposes
of God?**

FAITH WITHOUT DEEDS IS DEAD

ILLUSTRATION 4 – James 2v25-26

1. I serve elsewhere already...

2. I'm too old...

3. I'm too busy...





**Is your
faith dead,
or is it
living?**