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[Seven Arrows of our Christian Economy Arrow #6](#)

Welcome to OIC. I hope you are enjoying our sermon series.. the seven arrows of our Christian economy. The purpose for presenting these 7 arrows is to help show a platform in which we can let God use us to build a happy and healthy church. I have shown you over several weeks the reason we use arrows and it comes from Isaiah 49;2,3.

Isaiah 49:2,3 He has made My mouth like a sharp sword,
In the shadow of His hand He has concealed Me;
And He has also made Me a select arrow,
He has hidden Me in His quiver.
³ He said to Me, "You are My Servant, Israel,
In Whom I will show My glory."

The first 5 arrows were concerning prayer, encouragement, judging stewardship and spiritual growth. Now this week. Arrow #6.

[Arrow #6 A church where we embrace our faith.](#)

Let me explain first there is a difference between our system of faith and simply having faith. Our system of faith is basically what we believe. I think our system of faith is very well described in the Apostles Creed.

[Apostles Creed](#)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell;

the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Our system of faith tells us that God is in 3 persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that we can communicate through prayer with God and that we are sinners in need of a Saviour. The great thing about our system of faith is that it never changes. There is no variance to it. The Word of God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Our system of faith centers around the fact that we are sinners in need of a Savior.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

The Apostle Paul reiterated these facts in his written discourse in I Corinthians 15:1-4.

I Corinthians 15:1-4 ¹ Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand,

² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

Our Bible is divided into 2 basic components.. the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament provides historical reference. The Old Testament has books of the law, it has prophesy, wisdom, poetry and history. The New Testament describes the birth, death and burial and resurrection of Jesus. It gives us teaching on how to live our lives in the scope of the fact that we are now a New Testament church. It assures us that Jesus is coming back and that He has given us a standard to live by until He returns. Many of the books of the New Testament are letters. Some of them are written by the Apostle Paul who is responsible for about half of the writings. If you are more interested in learning about the overview of the Bible and our system of faith, please make every effort to attend the class on Wednesday night led by Dan Parry. First and foremost, we place our faith and trust in Jesus Christ. He is the head and authority of this church and the universal church. He was sent here by God the Father to display His Lordship.

John 3:16,17 ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

As Christians, we integrate the system of faith with our practice of faith. Genuine biblical faith is a miracle. Faith in God is something we do not possess naturally. God’s Word clarifies this further.

Hebrews 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

And here’s another verse that back that up. Yes, God is the Author and perfecter of our faith.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

Let me further clarify that with this verse.

Romans 12:3 ³ For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

Romans 12:3 says every believer has some measure of faith and that God empowers us to believe in Him, serve Him and glorify Him. Our support text today is James 2:14-26.

James 2:14-26 ¹⁴ What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food,

¹⁶ 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? ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

¹⁸ But someone may well say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” ¹⁹ You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

²⁰ But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?

²² You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, 'And Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,' and he was called the friend of God.

²⁴ You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵ In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

²⁶ For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

Within the context of our support text today I want to show you 3 kinds of faith.

#1 Dead faith

James 2:14-17 ¹⁴ What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food,

¹⁶ 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? ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself

James discusses that dead faith substitutes words for deeds. People who possess dead faith know the correct vocabulary, we even at times quote verses from the Bible. But dead faith is really only intellectual faith, found only within one's mind. You can understand the doctrine of salvation but have never submitted yourselves to the Lordship of Jesus. Any declaration of faith that does not result in a changed life and good works is a false declaration or a dead faith. Warren Wiersbe, a famous Christian writer of commentaries said this: "no man can come to Christ in faith and remain the same".

II Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

I John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

#2 Demonic faith

James 2:18,19 ¹⁸ But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." ¹⁹ You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

Even demons have a kind of faith. They obviously believe in the deity of Jesus. They believe they can be condemned to hell. Of course the demons shudder. They realize they're going to have a permanent vacation in the Lake of Fire. The difference between dead faith and demonic faith is this. The demons have an intellectual faith, that is a knowledge of Jesus and they also have emotional faith but true saving faith involves more. You see, the demons, although they had emotional and intellectual faith, were unwilling to submit themselves to the Lordship of Christ.

In other words, our faith causes us to do something with our lives. James describes that as 'works'. A truly saving faith must involve a changed life. So thus far, we have seen from our support text,

something that James describes as dead faith and something that he describes as demonic faith. But there is a third kind of faith.

#3 Dynamic faith

James 2:20-26 ²⁰ But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?

²² You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, 'And Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,' and he was called the friend of God.

²⁴ You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵ In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

²⁶ For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

Since faith is based on the Word of God

Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

Dynamic faith involves the whole man. You see, dead faith spoke only of intellect. Demonic faith speaks only of intellect and emotion. But dynamic faith involves intellect, emotion and most importantly, our will. In our support text we see Abraham **willing** to sacrifice his son. We also see Rahab the harlot **willing** to risk her own life to free the spies. These are 2 separate sermons so I won't expound upon them now. We learn today that faith without works is a dead faith and in verse 24 it says 'this kind of faith cannot justify our lives'. Real saving faith will result in a changed life and necessitate works. In other words, the things we do for the Kingdom. How can we demonstrate our confidence in Christ?

Let me tell you of a time when Nancy and I had to demonstrate our faith in Christ. I was starting a new church and I got a rather sudden visit on a Saturday morning from one of the men who was helping me with the project. He told me that the community we were working in was receiving our message very well but there were some who did not like the changes in the people. The fact that many had become Christians and these men had told my friend that if I continue to preach there that they would kill me. Wow. It certainly gave us pause for thought. Because I was scheduled to preach at this new church the following Sunday. Nancy and I prayed about this situation and God told us that he had called us there to start this church. With that in our hearts, we decided not to abandon the new church plant. As we arrived at the church the next Sunday morning, God had impressed upon me the verse "no weapon formed against me shall prosper." I held firmly to this verse as I integrated the promises of God's Word and applied it to my life in faith. When we arrived the men who were opposing us stood across the street from the church. We ignored them and went into the building. Our very small congregation began to arrive. I don't mind telling you I was a little bit nervous, not only for me, but for those who had gathered. Before the service started, Nancy came to me and said 'Brian, I will stand by the door and if they approach I will let you know. At this time I think Nancy displayed a very courageous faith. I went to the pulpit and preached a message using the scriptural text that says "no weapon formed against us shall prosper." Well, God who is the God of protection did not allow these men to accomplish what they had warned us they would do. The next day Nancy had a great idea. As we talked about this, she said "Brian, we can't go to that church every Sunday and risk the lives of our congregation." So we decided to go and visit these

people who were opposed to us. Nancy even baked some brownies. We took them with us. We drove there, parked our truck in front of their house and proceeded to knock on their door. They were quite surprised to see us. But didn't seem as angry as they had been just a few days earlier. I am convinced that the Holy Spirit had brought some conviction to their hearts. We offered them the brownies and were quite surprised when they invited us in. We talked and told them we were here as ambassadors for God and that our purpose was to present the Good News of Jesus Christ. I asked if we might pray with them before we left and they said OK. I was even more surprised the following Sunday morning when we arrived to provide preaching and teaching for the congregation when these very people arrived at church. They were carrying the container that Nancy had brought the brownies in and within the container were placed a bunch of bananas. It was their way of telling us that we were now accepted and were no longer going to see them as threats. As the weeks went by these people began to attend our church.

Conclusion

So today, we have clearly seen from God's Word there is a dead faith, a demonic faith and a dynamic faith. Satan, the father of lies, has tried to convince the world that knowing about Jesus will save them. Can I be frank and honest with you? Can I ask you, was there a time in your life when you realized you were a sinner and in need of a Savior. If you did and you prayed to receive Jesus, you are saved. As you confessed your sins and received Christ as Lord, the Holy Spirit came upon you and now is serving as your Comforter, your guide and is a way that God lives within you. The beauty of those who are in the faith is that we are all joined together by the same Holy Spirit. As our church strives to be Christ centered and Bible based, it is through the Holy Spirit's presence with us and by knowing and utilizing the Word of God that our church can be all that God has called us to be. If you are sensing today that you would like to become a Christian, we have prayer counsellors waiting for you at the Prayer Lift. We will speak with you privately concerning a decision you must make if you want truly to become a Christian. And then, you can begin to experience dynamic faith.