BACK TO CHURCH

Back to Church: Faith and Works in the Life of a Believer

Rev Ochuba Okam Ochuba PhD
First Presbyterian Church of Tyrone, PA

The relationship between faith and works, and how they function together in the life of the believer, is highlighted in James 2:14–18. This relationship addresses the central theological tension in the passage. James does not appear to reject faith (πίστις) itself; rather, he critiques a form of faith that remains merely verbal or intellectual. In this reflection, I refer to this type of faith as confessional or professed faith, a faith that is articulated but not embodied. James therefore explores the relationship between inner conviction and outward action within the life of the Christian community.

It indicates that genuine faith cannot remain merely internal or verbal; it must manifest itself in concrete acts of compassion and justice toward others, particularly the vulnerable. Faith, therefore, is not static but dynamic; it matures through action. When faith is professed without corresponding demonstration, it becomes lifeless. Thus, faith is perfected when it is lived out in works.

It is therefore insightful that living faith must include believing, trusting, and acting. When belief, trust, and action are disconnected, faith weakens or dies. This insight helped clarify the integrative nature of faith in James' argument.

In the epistle of James, James uses Abraham as an example to illustrate the spectrum of faith, from professed faith to demonstrative faith and ultimately to completed faith. According to James, Abraham's faith is completed in his willingness to offer Isaac. Through this act, Abraham's faith is shown to be active and mature, earning him recognition as righteous and the designation "friend of God."

Furthermore, James emphasizes that believers should demonstrate their faith through their works. This discussion also acknowledges the thin line between genuine faith and performative religiosity. However, James' original audience lived in a very different context from our contemporary technology-driven world, where performative actions can be easily amplified. Even so, James' message remains clear: believers are called to embody their faith through acts of care and service toward others, regardless of the medium through which such care is expressed.

James pairs Abraham and Rahab as examples to demonstrate how one action could reflect righteousness. By placing these two figures together, one a patriarch of Israel and the other an outsider, James emphasizes that active faith transcends social and gender boundaries. Ultimately, what matters therefore is the visible expression of faith through faithful action.

We are therefore invited to a place of visible expression of faith through our faithful actions toward our neighbors, church, community, and nation.

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church



Reverend Father Michael Pleva
623 E. 3rd Street, Bellwood
Masses: Saturday 4 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m.
Confessions: Saturday 3:30 p.m.
& By Request

Saint Matthew Roman Catholic Church
1105 Cameron Avenue, Tyrone, PA 16686 • (814) 684-1480
Reverend Father Michael Pleva
COME HOME TO THE CHURCH



We open our doors for all to celebrate with us God's gift of faith in His Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. To have a spiritual family is a blessing so no matter how long you have been away and no matter what the reason, we invite you to start or to renew your relationship with the Catholic Church. Please join our parish family as we worship our good and gracious God.



OUR MASS SCHEDULE:
Saturday - 5:30 p.m.
Sunday - 7:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Confessions: Saturday 12:30 p.m.
Make this year of your earthly journey a life-changing experience.

Church Of The Good Shepherd
1650 Clay Ave., Tyrone • 814-684-2472
goodshepherdtyrone@gmail.com
www.goodshepherd-tyrone.org
Find us on Facebook:
"Church of the Good Shepherd Tyrone"
SUNDAY WORSHIP 9 A.M.

Warriors Mark Methodist Church
1840 Centre Line Rd., Warriors Mark • 814-632-6906
warriorsmarkmethodistchurch@gmail.com
www.warriorsmarkmethodistchurch.org
Find us on Facebook: Warriors Mark Methodist Church
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:45 A.M.
Pastor Ron Baker

First Presbyterian Church
Pastor Ochuba Okam Ochuba
102 West 13th St., Tyrone
Sunday Worship:
Service at 10:30 a.m.
Volunteer Church Meals:
Delivered Tues & Fri 11 a.m.
Shoe Closet: First Saturday/Month
10 a.m. - Noon

First English Lutheran Church
17 West 13th Street • Tyrone
814-684-1430
Worship Schedule
Saturday Evening 5 p.m.
Sunday School 9 a.m.
Sunday Morning 10:15 a.m.
www.tyronelutheran.org
Interim Pastor Peter Naschke

Tyrone Church Of The Brethren
"Sharing The Savior"
500 West 18th Street, Tyrone
814-684-4940
www.Tyronechurch.org
Join us Sunday mornings for a great time of worshipping our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in a welcoming family, friendly atmosphere.
Passionately Proclaiming The Truth Of God's Word, One Verse At A Time
Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.