

# "Is Your Faith ALIVE???"

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Illustration: stick of deodorant...

Imagine if you would carry your deodorant around with you in your book-bag at school, you take it everywhere you go, you occasionally take the cap off and smell it, you're so proud of your deodorant... you even show your friends. "Hey check out my deodorant... Old Spice is the best!!!" Imagine you do all that, but you never put your deodorant on. You talk about it, carry it around, even show it off, but never where it... It won't do you any good. You are still gonna' stink!!! Because believing in your deodorant is one thing, but actually putting it to use is something different. It is the same way with faith.

## **James 2:14-19 NIV**

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? [15] Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. [16] If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? [17] In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

[18] But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. [19] You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that--and shudder.

### **1. What good is faith without deeds???**

There are a lot of people going around saying, "I'm a Christian." They say they believe in God, they say that they love Jesus, but they don't live it out. They say one thing and do another...

**ASK: What good is it to say you have faith if you don't live it out???** NONE

**Ask: How many of you can usually spot a faker???** I mean you know if somebody is just a poser.

Illustration: My brother is a skateboarder. He's been skating since he was like eleven. He loves to skate. He knows how to do a bunch of tricks and stuff (I don't even know the names of most of them). Sometimes if I was hanging with Jeremy, he'd see some kid wearing all skateboarding clothes, (the element shirt, the dc shoes, you name it...) Jeremy could look at their shoes and know if they were a real skater, or just a poser. A skater's shoes would always be all scuffed up, maybe even half the toe missing, from doing tricks on their board. Even new shoes don't look new long for a hardcore skater. They just can't wait to get out and mess up their new kicks. My bro would usually call people out... if they were just posers. Sometimes I'd ask Jeremy, "Hey do you know that kid? He looks like a skater." Jeremy would be like, "yeah I know him, but he's just a poser. He doesn't really skate, he just wears the clothes."

Did you know there are a lot of Christian "posers"???

Maybe you know some (please don't name any names). They say they are a Christian, but you know them. They may say they are, they may even wear the Christian t-shirts, but what do they do???

You can tell what somebody really believes by watching the life that they live.

## **2. Don't Be a POSER**

God doesn't want us to just give him "lip service". He wants people that really follow Him.

### **Matthew 15:8-9 NIV**

" 'These people honor me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me.  
[9] They worship me in vain;  
their teachings are but rules taught by men.'"

Jesus said this about the Pharisees (the religious people of his day), because they were talking about God, and teaching about God, but they were also taking advantage of people and looking out for themselves. Jesus said they "worship in vain." That means that their worship is useless because they worship God with their mouths, but they don't do live what they preach. God wants people that worship God not only with their mouths but with their lives.

**What about YOU???** Are you a Poser, or do you live the life?

It's one thing to say "cursing is wrong." Then when you are around your friends at school you blab off all kinds of four letter words. That's being a poser.

It's one thing to sing, "I want to know you, I want to see your face." It's another thing to read the Bible and pray. That's putting your faith to action.

It's one thing to say, "Jesus is my homeboy." Then when you get on the internet and no one is looking, you look at porn. That's being a poser.

You know its one thing to say, "I believe in missions. I want people to hear about Jesus." It's another thing to give money to Speed the Light, or to tell your friend about Jesus. That's putting your faith to action.

### **3. Walk The Talk: Make Your Faith Active**

The choice is only up to you. How are you gonna' live your life. Are you going to be for real and live out your faith, or are you just another poser???

#### **James 2:26 NIV**

**As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.**

Being a Christian is not always easy. Anyone that says it is doesn't know what they're talking about. But no matter what challenges we face, God is with us and He will help us through if we seek Him. I want to live out my faith everyday. I want ACTIVE faith. I want real faith. **ASK: How many of you want to LIVE OUT your faith???**

**Altar Call: For anyone who wants real faith... active faith**