

**Faith Without Works is Dead**  
**A Passionate Call for Acts of Mercy**  
**James 1:27; 2:12-26**

**I. Introduction**

Matthew 7:19 (NIV)

Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

**James' Point: Faith Can Be Seen**

Matthew 7:21 (NIV)

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

***"Did you in fact realize that the meeting of needs is not peripheral, not optional, but central and obligatory to your faith?"*** J.A Motyer

**II. The Mark of a True Believer**

Deut. 10:18 (NIV)

He (God) defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing.

Deut. 24:19-21

A heart that truly loves God will beat to the rhythm of God's own heart. God's heart beats to the rhythm of mercy.

### III. The *Mandate* for a True Believer

James 2:12,13 (NIV)

Speak and **act** as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

### IV. The *Mission* of a True Believer

The mission of true believers is rooted in Christ's purpose for their lives. Christ's purpose for our lives:

1. Ephesians 2:10
2. Titus 2:13-14

What our mission in life should look like as it relates to good works...

#### ***1. We are to devote ourselves to it.***

Titus 3:8

1 Tim. 6:17-18

#### ***2. We are to be eager about it.***

Titus 2:13-14

Galatians 2:9-10

**3. *We are to stir one another up for it.***

Hebrews 10:24

**4. *We are to be ready for it.***

Titus 3:1

## **V. Conclusion**

Ezekiel 16:1-14

## **Care Group Questions**

1. Why do you think is it so important to James that we know the difference between faith that saves and faith that does not?
2. Why do you think James singles out the orphans and the widows in verse 1:27 and not the “needy” in general?
3. What are the greatest obstacles that keep you from making good works a central focus in your life?
4. How can those obstacles be removed?
5. What are some practical ways you and your care group members can do to help each other be devoted to good works, be eager for good works, stir one another up to good works and be ready for good works?