

Groups.

ARMCHAIR FAITH TO ACTIVE FAITH

Drawing from Jesus' message to the church in Sardis (Revelation 3), we're warned against spiritual complacency—a faith that appears alive but is inwardly dead. In a culture of comfort, it's easy to settle for a version of faith centered on what God does for us rather than what we're called to do for Him.

God loves us deeply, but His love leads us toward transformation. Like Sardis, we must guard against overconfidence, relying on past victories while neglecting present spiritual vitality. Jesus' call to "Wake up!" reminds us that true faith is not passive but purposeful marked by intimacy with God, obedience, and mission.

Faith and works are inseparable; authentic faith produces action. We are invited to awaken our spiritual senses, pursue personal encounter, and live lives fully surrendered to Jesus. Let's reject comfortable, empty religion and step into a vibrant, surrendered faith that impacts every part of our lives.

REFLECTION

Share something that stood out from the Sunday message 'Armchair Faith to Active Faith'.

MESSAGE POINTS

One: Wake Up from Spiritual Apathy

Jesus calls us to awaken from spiritual complacency and move beyond a faith that is only comfortable and self-serving. Like the church in Sardis, it is easy to settle into routines and appearances that look alive but are actually spiritually stagnant. True faith is not about resting on past achievements or living for convenience, but about being alert, watchful, and responsive to God's call. God's love is too great to leave us where we are; He desires that we walk in intimacy and active relationship with Him, refusing to settle for a faith that is only about what we receive.

Revelation 3:1-6 (ESV)

"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: 'The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. "I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

Discussion

- **When you hear the phrase “Wake up!” spiritually, what emotions or thoughts does it stir in you?**
- **In what ways can faith become more about comfort than transformation?**
- **What truth or calling have you “received and heard” in the past that you’ve let drift?**
How is the Spirit inviting you to repent, realign, and walk it out with renewed purpose?

Two: Faith Must Be Active, Not Passive

Faith is not just a belief or a feeling; it is meant to be lived out through our actions. God’s grace is His gift to us, but our faith is our response - one that is visible in how we love, serve, and give. A faith that does not produce good deeds is incomplete and lifeless. We are called to let our faith impact every part of our lives, aligning our inner convictions with our outward actions, so that our lives become a testimony of God’s transforming power.

James 2:14-24 (ESV)

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

Discussion

- **Where is your faith currently being lived out in practical obedience—and where is it still mostly belief without action?** *What’s one area where God may be calling you to step out in visible faith this week?*
- **James says that Abraham’s faith was “completed” by his works.** *What step of obedience could complete or mature your faith right now? How can others support you in taking it?*
- **Faith that doesn’t serve others is described as dead.** *Who in your world is in need—and how might your faith express itself through tangible love or generosity this week?*

Three: Tune In to God's Voice

Hearing God's voice requires intentionality and intimacy. In a world full of noise and distraction, it is easy to mistake the opinions and information around us for God's leading. But God often speaks in a gentle whisper, inviting us to draw close, quiet our hearts, and listen. This kind of listening happens best in the secret place and is confirmed in community with other believers. When we tune our hearts to God's frequency, we open ourselves to His guidance, correction, and encouragement, allowing Him to shape us from the inside out.

1 Kings 19:11-13 (ESV)

And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

Discussion

- **What distractions or "loud noises" in your life make it hard to hear God's whisper?**
What rhythms or boundaries could you put in place to create space for intentional listening?
- **When have you clearly sensed God speak to you - through Scripture, prayer, or a gentle nudge?**
What helped you recognise it was His voice, and how did you respond?
- **Elijah heard God in a whisper after the wind, earthquake, and fire.**
What does this tell us about how God often speaks - and how can you train your heart to better discern His voice in the stillness?

Four: Offer Your Life as a Fragrant Sacrifice

Our lives are meant to be a pleasing aroma to God, not just in isolated moments but in every area. When we offer ourselves fully - our time, our resources, our relationships, our struggles - as a living sacrifice, God's presence fills us and overflows to those around us. This is not about compartmentalising faith or giving God only a part, but about inviting Him into every detail. As we surrender and bring even our hidden struggles into the light, God's Spirit transforms us, and our lives become a testimony of His grace and power.

Ephesians 5:2 (ESV)

And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Discussion

- **What area of your life is hardest to surrender fully to God—time, relationships, habits, control?**
What might it look like to offer that part of your life as a "fragrant sacrifice" this week?

- **Ephesians 5:2 says Jesus gave Himself up in love as a fragrant offering.**
How can you imitate that sacrificial love in your everyday relationships and rhythms of life?
- **Is your faith compartmentalised or fully integrated?** *What would change if you invited God into every part of your life - especially the hidden or struggling areas?*

Five: Pursue a Personal, Firsthand Experience of God's Goodness

God invites us to "taste and see" His goodness for ourselves, not just to hear about Him second-hand. Active faith is about pursuing a real, personal relationship with Jesus - knowing Him, experiencing His love, and trusting Him in every circumstance. This kind of faith is not content with comfort or routine; it seeks to encounter God daily and to let His goodness shape every part of life. When we step out of the armchair and onto the path of active pursuit, we discover the joy and blessing of truly knowing Him.

Psalm 34:8 (ESV)

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Discussion

- **Are you currently experiencing God's goodness firsthand—or mostly relying on second hand faith through others?**
What might help you move from knowing about God to personally encountering Him more deeply?
- **Psalm 34:8 invites us to "taste and see" God's goodness.**
What specific ways have you recently experienced God's goodness - and how has it shaped your trust in Him?
- **What might stepping off the "armchair" and into active pursuit of God look like for you this week?**
What step of faith, risk, or obedience could position you to know Him more personally?

GROUPS PRAYER POINTS

Pray for each other's personal journey as a disciple and discipleship in our church

- Being in the presence of Jesus, becoming more like Jesus and continuing the work He did.

Pray for the Holy Spirit's presence

- That we would be led, filled and empowered to live surrendered, love God and serve others.

Pray for Decade of Destiny

- **Debt Free on Sims and Stage One** Believe that we could be debt free on the purchase of Sims St and the stage one fit-out costs.
- **Launch Two New LIFE Campuses** That we would pioneer two additional LIFE campuses across Melbourne and continue to make room for more people to discover the wonder of Jesus, find their family and step into all that God leads.
- **LIFE Homes** To have short-, medium- and long-term accommodation navigable to enable emergency support, crisis help and essential care to key areas of vulnerability.

- **Education Services Engaged** It is our vision that we will have multiple pathways that we will be able to bring lasting transformation to our communities through learning and education and reverse the cycle of poverty.
- **Sims Street Revival** God is entrusting us to first and foremost lift up the names of Jesus and see many thousands upon thousands discover His eternal life.

UPCOMING DATES

August

August 3rd - Young Professionals Lunch, after 11am at Life

August 16th – YA Main Event

August 31st – Baptisms

Courses

- August – Theology Night Course 'the Gospel of Mathew' Thursday Nights, 7pm at Life
- Untangle Your Emotions – Online Thursday Nights, 7pm
- Conquer For Men – Online and In Person at Life, Monday 7pm

Date Night

- August 15th, 7pm – 9:30pm at Life
- For Married and Engaged couples