

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Big Idea: Living faith is a moving faith.

Faith is not a guilt trip but a journey with God. Like riding a bike, following Jesus requires balance, rhythm, and motion. In other words, it requires identity, intake, and obedience.

MAIN POINTS**1. Seat of the Bike = Being a Child of God**

- *John 1:12*, "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."
- *Galatians 4:4-7*, Through Christ's redemption we are adopted as sons and daughters, no longer slaves but heirs with Christ.
- **Application:** Begin each morning reminding yourself, "*God, help me to remember that I am your child.*"

2. Left Pedal = Knowing the Word of God

- *James 1:19-21*, Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and humbly receive the Word planted in you.
- *2 Timothy 3:16*, Scripture equips us for teaching, correction, and training in righteousness.
- Warren Wiersbe: "*When the child of God looks into the Word of God, he sees the Son of God and is transformed by the Spirit of God to share in the glory of God.*"
- **Application:** Fuel your soul by beginning each morning in Scripture.

3. Right Pedal = Doing the Word of God

- *James 1:22-27*, Don't just hear the Word, do it. True religion shows itself in obedience, self-control, compassion, and holiness.
- *Philippians 2:5-8*, Christ humbled Himself in obedience to the Father, even to death on the cross.
- **Application:** Share God's story daily by reflecting the Gospel through service and obedience.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it important to start with our identity as children of God (the "seat" of the bike) before trying to live out our faith? Possible Answer: Because all obedience flows from our adoption in Christ, not from trying to earn God's love. Our confidence rests in being His children. (*John 1:12; Galatians 4:4-7*)

2. What's the danger of only listening to the Word without doing it, and how have you seen this in your own life? Possible Answer: It creates self-deception and shallow faith. We can know Scripture but remain unchanged if we don't apply it. (*James 1:22-24*)

3. In what area of your life is God calling you to "pedal forward" by obeying His Word this week? Possible Answer: (varies per person), forgiving someone, sharing the gospel, serving one in need, or controlling speech. (*James 1:25; Philippians 2:5-8*)

GOSPEL CONNECTION

James calls us not to be hearers only but doers of the Word (*James 1:22*). But none of us naturally obey God's Word, our anger, pride, and sin reveal our desperate need for Christ. The good news is that Jesus perfectly listened, obeyed, and lived the Word of God (*John 1:14*). He took our disobedience to the cross, died for our sins, and rose again to give us new life as children of God. Because of Christ, we are adopted into God's family, filled with His Spirit, and empowered to live a faith that moves forward in love and obedience; that is God's grace! If you have not yet trusted Jesus, repent and believe in Him today. Receive Him as Savior and Lord, and you will become a child of God (*John 1:12*). If you already belong to Him, keep riding the bike of faith; resting in your identity, fueling your soul with His Word, and moving forward in obedience.

PERSONAL DAILY DEVOTIONS

Monday – Resting in Your Identity

Key Verse: *John 1:12, “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”*

Reflection: Before we can live out our faith, we must rest in who we are in Christ. You don’t ride the bike of faith to earn God’s love; you ride because you already have His love. Adoption into God’s family is a gift of grace through Jesus Christ. Remembering that we are children of God keeps us from turning Christianity into a guilt-driven religion and anchors us in God’s unshakable love.

Application Question: What difference does it make to live from your identity as God’s child instead of striving to earn His approval?

Possible Answer: It brings freedom, joy, and security. I can obey God out of gratitude, not fear, knowing I am already accepted in Christ.

Prayer Response: “Father, thank You for adopting me into Your family through Jesus. Help me rest daily in the truth that I am Your child, fully loved and accepted in Christ, in Jesus’ name, Amen.”

(Sources: John 1:12; Galatians 4:4–7; J.I. Packer, *Knowing God* (Chapter 19, “Sons of God”))

Tuesday – Receiving the Word

Key Verse: *James 1:21, “Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.”*

Reflection: The Christian life is nourished by God’s Word. Just as a bike needs fuel to keep moving, our souls need the steady intake of Scripture. James reminds us that God’s Word is planted in us, but we must humbly receive it, removing sin and distraction that choke it out. When Scripture takes root, it transforms our hearts and aligns us with God’s desires.

Application Question: How can you make space this week to “humbly accept” God’s Word in your daily life?

Possible Answer: By starting each morning with Scripture before checking my phone or planning my day.

Prayer Response: “Lord, cleanse my heart from distractions and pride. Give me a hunger to receive Your Word with humility so it may shape my thoughts, words, and actions, in Jesus’ name, Amen.”

(Sources: James 1:19–21; 2 Timothy 3:16; Warren Wiersbe, *Be Mature: James*.)

Wednesday – Doers, Not Just Hearers

Key Verse: *James 1:22, “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”*

Reflection: It’s possible to sit in church, take notes, or even memorize Scripture without being changed. James warns that hearing without doing deceives us. God’s Word is like a mirror; it shows us our true condition and calls us to act. Obedience is where transformation happens. Faith grows when we step out in trust, applying the truth to real life.

Application Question: What is one area where you’ve been “hearing” God’s Word but not “doing” it?

Possible Answer: I often hear God’s call to forgive but delay in reconciling with those who hurt me.

Prayer Response: “Lord, forgive me for times I have heard Your Word but failed to obey. Give me courage to live out Your truth today in obedience and trust, in Jesus’ name, Amen.”

(Sources: James 1:22–25; Matthew 7:24–27; John Stott, *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*.)

Thursday – Pure Religion in Action

Key Verse: *James 1:27, “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”*

Reflection: True faith is not measured by religious rituals but by love in action. James points us to vulnerable groups, orphans and widows, as examples of those we are called to serve. Pure religion is both compassionate (serving the needy) and holy (remaining unpolluted by sin). When we care for others and walk in holiness, we reflect the heart of Christ to the world.

Application Question: Who in your life or community is vulnerable or overlooked, and how can you show God’s love to them this week?

Possible Answer: A lonely neighbor I could invite to dinner, or a single parent I can encourage with practical help.

Prayer Response: “Father, give me Your eyes to see those who are hurting. Help me to live out pure and faultless faith by serving others and walking in holiness, in Jesus’ name, Amen.”

(Sources: James 1:26–27; Matthew 25:35–40; Tim Keller, *Generous Justice*.)

Friday – Following Christ’s Example

Key Verse: *Philippians 2:5–8, “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus... he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”*

Reflection: Jesus is the perfect example of living faith in motion. He humbled Himself, obeyed the Father, and gave His life for us. Our obedience is not about perfection but about direction, walking step by step in the way of Christ. As we “ride the bike” of faith, our lives become a testimony of God’s grace to the world.

Application Question: What step of obedience is Jesus calling you to take today, even if it feels costly or uncomfortable?

Possible Answer: Sharing the gospel with a co-worker, even though I feel nervous.

Prayer Response: “Lord Jesus, thank You for showing me what true obedience looks like. Give me strength to follow Your example and reflect Your love to the world, in Jesus’ name, Amen.”

(Sources: Philippians 2:5–8; James 1:25; Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*.)