**Sermon Notes**

**“The Strength Type”**

**The Strength Type: Experiencing God through serving**

James 2:14–26 (ESV)

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 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? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 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. 19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! 20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; 23 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. 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. 25 And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? 26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. Which part of the sermon was most impactful, interesting, or thought-provoking for you? Why?

2. Do you self-identify as a Strength type? If not, how would you rate yourself on a scale of 1-10 in terms of experiencing God through Scripture and theological reflection?

3. “Faith without works is dead.” Why do you think James uses the word “dead” instead of “non-existent”? What does that imply about the role of good deeds in our lives?

4. “Our works justify our faith before others.” Can you think of an example or two in your life where doing a good work led someone to respect your faith more.

5. What are the kinds of good works that would increase our credibility with those living in the city of Nelson?

**Prayer Prompters**

-Pray that God would help us become a church that loves in deed and truth.

-Pray for those who have become embittered by Christians/Churches who simply “talk the talk” but offer little support, love, or care.

-Pray that we would become a church marked by self-sacrificial generosity and love.

-Pray for those within our church who are considering being baptized.

**Take Action:**

1. Time/Energy/Money: “Where am I being called to serve self-sacrificially?”