

“So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.”
James 2:17 NLT

lectio // James 2:14-26

I’ve always enjoyed James’ strong word when it comes to the subject of faith. Faith isn’t a feeling, a thought or a mental rah-rah that gives ya goosebumps as you feel the spirit of God moving in you. It is ACTIONABLE. The feeling, the thought, the idea is a motivating factor to do something, to act on something, to step out and physically trust God. I just imagine James, growing up with his elder brother and watching the amazing interaction between Jesus’ belief and his behaviors. Jesus was constantly doing - working, he once commented. So when someone says “just have faith” or “I need more faith,” I’d challenge myself to think - FOR WHAT? What is God asking of me? How am I acting on that faith in very practical ways? I often tell people, faith really isn’t as cool as everyone makes it out to be, it is often terrifying! Like standing on the edge of a huge precipice and knowing your going to take the next step. It is wholeheartedly trusting God with each nervous step. But it’s always movement - it shouldn’t even be a noun, it should be a verb. Like, let’s faith this. Or, I’m out faithing right now.

oratio

Dad,

James is right! Faith does kinda become useless if it’s not used more. It is and has been quite a journey to hear your Holy Spirit whisper or nudge and know that the next part is a step of faith. I’d ask for help in this, but I believe you have me on quite a fastrack of faith as it is.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root