

WHAT REALLY COUNTS IN CHRIST JANUARY 23, 2022

INTRODUCTION:

ISAIAH 66:1-2 (AMPC, TPT) One can never over emphasize the importance of God's Word: God reveals Himself through His Word; works through His Word; brings new life; and generates faith through His Word. **PSALMS 138:2 (AMPC)** God exalts His Word above His name. **2 TIMOTHY 3:16-4:5 (NLT)** God's Word corrects, rebukes, teaches, and encourages.

WHAT REALLY COUNTS IN CHRIST

GALATIANS 5:2-6 (NIV)

1. Faith working through love is what really counts.

A. Faith is the belief or certainty that something is true. In a word, faith means trust. Faith consists of knowledge but is more than knowledge. It is the conviction or certainty that what is said is true for me. So much so it moves me to action. Parachuting out of an airplane. I didn't pack my parachute, didn't supervise it being packed or even know who packed it. Nonetheless, I put it on, board the plane and jump at an altitude high enough to make a big splat if it didn't open. I trusted the parachute would open as it should. I had so much faith and certainty that I put my life in its hands. Faith in Christ is more than knowledge. I know I can't gain right standing with God on my own. Jesus accomplished this for me. I know He died for me, rose again for me, conquered death for me and sits in a place of honor in heaven and intercedes for me. Knowing all this doesn't change my standing before God until by faith I appropriate these truths in my life.

ROMANS 10:8-10, 13-17 – There are three components to faith: hearing, believing and acting, and the main action of faith is speaking. Jesus makes this clean when He taught faith (**MATTHEW 17:20, MARK 11:23, LUKE 17:5-6**). Paul agrees (**2 CORINTHIANS 4:13**).

- **1 SAMUEL 17:41-47 (MSG)** Goliath trusted in his weapons, size and skill, but David trusted in the name of the Lord of hosts!

EXODUS 14:13-14 (MSG)

B. Love is more than a feeling, it's a commandment of God based on principle and decision (**JOHN 15:12-13, 1 JOHN 3:11,16**). How can we love as God loves?

- **ROMANS 5:5** He gave His love-to-love others with.
- How important is it for love (agape) to be the motivating force behind all the activities or our lives? **1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-7 (MSG)** In short, without agape being our motivation, we're nobodies, making a lot of noise, to no benefit.

CONCLUSION: In Christ, it's not about being a Jew who keeps the law or a Gentile who is free from keeping the law. What really counts and matters to God, is an active faith expressing itself and being energized by love (agape)!