"FAITH WITH BOOTS ON"
BIG IDEA . . . Part 7: Demonic Faith (James 2:19)

INTRO: So far, last lesson examined heart of James' message on 2:14-26, Real faith consistently performs good deeds. You can't see faith, but you can see the results of it (like calories). Faith and works are inseparable. We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves us is never alone – it works! Works are not necessary to be saved; works are evidence that *you are* saved. Real faith is not just something you . . . Today, I want to more deeply examine one verse from this same passage (v. 19). Some verses in the Bible ought to scare us: Ezek. 21:31-32; Pro. 29:1; Matt. 13:41-42; Heb. 10:31 . . . And Jam. 2:19 has to been among them. Two Questions: How can demons "believe" and still be demons? If they "believe" and end up in hell, what about us?

This verse means exactly what it says. There is such a faith as "demonic faith," which is not about believing in demons, but believing *like* demons.

DEMONOLOGY OVERVIEW

Demons are real spirit beings who want to inhabit (influence) people and objects to evil ends. They were originally good angels created by God. About one-third of them joined arch-angel Lucifer in a rebellion against God and they were cast out of heaven to become fallen angels (demons-daimon-knowing ones) on earth to harass and intimidate us. They serve Satan and his evil plans on a fallen world. One of their strategies is to deceive us to embrace faith or believe that doesn't bring salvation – "demon faith." James shows us we can learn from their bad example. James answers 3 Questions that help us learn from demons who "believe" and yet end up in eternal hell.

I. WHAT DO DEMONS "BELIEVE"? (factual, intellectual)

A. James answers demons believe that God exists and possible meanings and each is true.
   1. God is one – Trinity (three in one) – unity
   2. God is the only One true God (Deut. 6:4) – We are to love and serve Him only.

B. What demons believe about God is true. They know Scripture. They know the truth about God – He is, He is One, He is the only one! Demons are not atheists, agnostics, skeptics, not even liberal who altar the truth. This is a "good" thing. True faith begins there, but doesn't end there.

C. What else do demons believe? NT Scripture includes many encounters with demons (mostly in Gospels with Jesus). From them we can learn more of their beliefs. R. Pritchard . . .

ILLUS: Never play Bible trivia with a demon – always win!

II. WHY DO THEY "SHUDDER"? (emotional, too)

A. Demons do "works/deeds" to prove they believe – they "shudder".

B. Etymology? Only use. The word means to make your hair stand on end (image). Our English word "frizzy" comes from it. When turn it into a noun, we get "freaky". The thought of God and His Son freaks demons out! Why?

C. "What do they know?" (Mk. 3:11-12; Lk. 8:31) Who Jesus is, His power over them, and they are sentenced to eternal hell one day. This makes them "shudder" *continually*, living in constant fear of their impending doom. But knowing all that and living in fear of it cannot deliver them.

ILLUS: W. A Criswell described a scene . . .

III. WHAT SHOULD WE LEARN FROM THIS?

A. *The more religious we are, the more we stand in danger of having demonic faith.* We could all stand in great danger, if we are deceived. We all have a story, don't we? But it's a damning mistake to think we are going to heaven because of what we know, our religious background, church attendance . . .

B. *Our enemy knows more theology than we do*. He is a Bible expert. He is a conservative scholar. They are wiser than most. They know their future; they shudder in fear of their eternal end.

ILLUS: Gordon Keddi poses this question . . .

C. *We must possess true biblical faith in Jesus Christ alone, and do deeds that prove it's genuineness*. Genuine faith has boots on – it does (2: 14-26). Always more than just knowledge of the facts – even biblical ones. Total trust, reliance, and commitment are essential. Example of true faith? Doctor, pilot, lawyer, fast food . . . you know what it means to have true faith.

QUESTION: "How much faith does it take to go to heaven?" Not much, but all you've got! Five key words: *Only Jesus and Jesus only.*

CONC: Don't be deceived and fall into the trap of demon's faith – a faith that acknowledges who He is but doesn't accept Him and prove it by constantly living for Him. James invites his readers including us to genuinely believe and prove it by how we LIVE.