

IF IT'S ALL FOR SHOW, IT'S NOT REAL

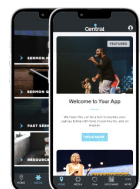
October 12, 2025 // Adam Davidson + Travis Rea

BIG IDEA: Faith that's alive produces evidence. God didn't call you to settle for appearances—He called you to abundance. The Spirit bears the fruit that proves you're His.

KEY SCRIPTURES:

2 Timothy 3:1-5
Galatians 5:22-25
John 15:5

1. In this series, we've talked about the negative aspects of having a counterfeit faith which can appear to be legitimate but, upon closer inspection, turns out to be fake. Why is it so tempting to pursue a false version of real life in Christ? What do we "get" out of being a phony version of authentic Christianity? What's the allure... AND... why doesn't it work?
2. Consider Paul's long list of characteristics practiced by false teachers at Ephesus (2 Timothy 3:1-5). Paul takes the time to meticulously mention 18 different adjectives of really bad behaviors. What effect does a detailed list have over a general description when it comes to diagnosing the bad fruit of counterfeit faith?
3. Have you ever encountered the bad fruit of counterfeit faith in someone? What does that experience do to a person's walk with Christ?
4. Paul says that these counterfeits "have a form of godliness but deny its power." In your group, discuss the potential trajectory that a person might take from point a (knowing the Truth) to point b (denying its power). Compare this to what we see in Hebrews 2:1, 10:14, and 10:36. What warning does their descent into denial of God's power hold for us? Do we have the same risk of "having a form of godliness but denying its power?" How does a pattern like that begin?
5. In the teaching, we talked about the danger of misdirected love. Paul tells Timothy that people will be "lovers of themselves." What does he mean by this? Compare to Mark 12:31, Psalm 139:14, Ephesians 5:29. At what point does self love go rogue and bring damage?
6. Galatians 5:22-25 is a list of character qualities of the Spirit-powered life. Talk about the difference between having a form of godliness by our own efforts and the effect of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives. What are the necessary components for us to produce real fruit?
7. Take time to review the words of Jesus in John 15:1-5. How does being connected to the vine generate real, robust, and fruitful life? How does staying connected to the vine push against the negative characteristics of Paul's list to Timothy?
8. Ask the Holy Spirit: Where am I faking growth? Where do you want to bear real fruit in me? Take time to pray for each other as we endeavor to pursue a real, not counterfeit, faith.



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