

# Family Focus

## SHEPHERD'S CORNER

### What Difference Does It Make?

As you have considered decisions, have you ever asked yourself the question, "What difference does it make?" For some things, it doesn't make much difference and, thus, reaching either of two decisions might be satisfactory.

What about the following question? Would either a "Yes" or "No" answer make a difference? "DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD WITH ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY?" That is the question that the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion and Public Life survey reported on a few weeks ago. Survey respondents from our state of Missouri, responded to this question with 71% saying they believe in God with absolute certainty, to rank 15th highest in the national survey. Mississippi led the way with 91 percent affirming an absolute belief in God.



Now let's consider another important question, "Does my life correctly reflect my answer to the survey question which Pew Research asked?" In other words, "Do my language, my actions, my attitudes, & my effort to follow what the Bible reveals as my correct response to God's will, indicate to others who observe me, that I believe in God with absolute certainty?" Think about it for a minute. Is it not imperative that if we truly believe in God that we *must* strive to shape our life into the mold that the God we profess to believe in requires of us?

The New Testament writer James put it this way: "...**faith by itself , if it is not accompanied by action is dead** (Jas. 3:17)." It does no good just to believe. "**You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that - and shudder** (Jas. 3:19)." "**a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone** (Jas. 3:18)."

From these verses, it seems clear that our belief in God must be accompanied with a life purposefully lived in obedience to God's will. Both what we believe and what we do as a result of that belief make a difference! ~ Charles Martin

### Shepherds' Vision Goals

#### Overall Goal:

To grow spiritually and numerically as "a family growing people to the glory of God".

#### Goals for the next 12 months:

1. Increase participation by at least 10% in these areas: Sunday Worship, Bible School, Ministry Works, and Small Groups.
2. Make a list of 5 folks to pray for & invite to Small Group or Worship.
3. Add 20 new teachers.
4. Total Congregational giving challenge - increase giving by 28%.

*Want to learn more about specific plans to reach these goals? Ask an elder or minister or go to our website: [www.fairviewroad.org](http://www.fairviewroad.org).*

#### Our Shepherds

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