

## Faith With Boots On

### Description

James 1:19-27.

A pastor friend took a small church in a rural community. He looked for ways to get involved in the community. The area volunteer fire department needed firefighters. He shared the opportunity with his church board, and they approved his participation. He took the training and eventually became certified as both a firefighter and paramedic.

Things went along well until one Sunday morning, the pastor's pager sounded in the middle of a service. He quickly responded to the alert, walking over and handing his Bible and sermon notes to a lay leader. Not knowing how the congregation would respond, he hurried to leave. As he left many in the congregation stood and applauded his action.

Over the years his volunteer work became a vital part of the church's ministry. Others got involved in various ways. They also reached out to families and individuals in distress in their area. The small church eventually grew, thriving on new energy and enthusiasm for ministry.

A few grumbled that their pastor should see to spiritual needs and leave the emergency response to others. Fortunately, their voices did not dim the support of others who applauded the pastor's faith with boots on approach.

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