



Real Faith Works

James 2:14-26

September 27, 2026

James 2:14-26

14 What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food,

16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?

17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

18 But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

20 But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?

22 You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected;

23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God.

24 You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.

25 In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

26 For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

Pastor Vaughn

1. The challenge

2. The verdict

3. The objection

4. The answer

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others. For more information about Koinonia Groups at Heritage Church that utilize these questions as the basis for their discussion, please see Pastor Vaughn or e-mail Vaughn@hcgj.org.

1. In the message, Pastor Vaughn said that many modern gospel presentations are designed to produce easy, positive responses to the message, but often include little about the Lord's demand for ongoing obedience and discipleship. What is the danger of this kind of shallow gospel presentation?
2. Reflecting on today's text, what is "dead faith?" According to James, is dead faith able to save? Why not?
3. How would you explain the relationship between faith and works to a new Christian?
4. In the message Pastor Vaughn said that fruitfulness in the Christian's life is the only observable proof of authentic faith. Do you agree? Why or why not?
5. Rightly understood, what inspires the believer's good works after coming to Christ in faith?
6. How is God's grace specially seen in Rahab's story?

Here are some resources that may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Vaughn cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Blomberg, Craig L. and Miriam J. Kaelell. **Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament V 16**. Zondervan 2008.
Hughes, Kent R. **James, Faith That Works**. Crossway, 1991.
Lenski, Richard C.H., **The Interpretation to the Epistle to the Hebrews and the Epistle of James**. Augsburg Fortress, 1946, 2008.
MacArthur, John. **The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: James**. Moody Publishers, 1998.
Moo, Douglas J. **The Letter of James**. Intervarsity, 1985.
Varner, William. **The Book of James, A New Perspective**. Kress, 2010.
Zodihates, Spires. **The Work of Faith**. Eerdmans 1959.

Streaming of both the audio and video of today's sermon is available on the Heritage website (HCGJ.org) and App (Heritage GJ). The App can also be found on YouTube, RokuTV, AppleTV, GoogleTV, FireTV, and CarPlay. Podcasts for Heritage Church can also be found on your favorite provider.