



May 3, 2026
Faith in Action - Faith & Deeds
James 2:14-26
Pastor Mike Griffin

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that--and shudder.

You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone. In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Questions for Personal or Small Group Use

Opening

In what ways has your faith been reflected in your actions this past week? How did it make you feel?

Discussion

- What is the interrelationship between faith and deeds in this passage? Why are actions necessary for true faith? What does this tell you about the nature of faith?
- How do we understand the Reformed principle of salvation by faith through grace alone (ex: Galatians 3:1-5) in light of this passage? Do these passages contradict each other? Why or why not?
- How is our faith meant to be reflected in deeds of action? How have you experienced the practical reality of faith without deeds being useless?
- What common example of faith without works does James use to drive his point home? Describe a recent situation where you observed people doing exactly what James is describing?
- How is Abraham an example of living faith the righteous life? How was Abraham's faith made complete by what he did (vs. 21-24)?
- How do your actions demonstrate the reality of your faith? What does it look like for faith and action to be working together and for faith to be made complete by what we do?
- How do you reconcile James with Paul when it comes to our justification? How are faith and action involved?

Application

What helps a person live an authentic life that is characterized by a solid faith that expresses itself in good works? What could you do to make them more consistent?



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