

FAITH, WORKS!

James 2:14-26

The Biblical definition of “faith.”

(Hebrews 11:1) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Substance – *hypostasis* – setting or placing under, a firm foundation.

Tangible Faith - (v.14-18)

(Matthew 12:36) “But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.”

Tangible faith is “active” and “transformative.”

(1 Corinthians 4:20) For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.

(Titus 3:14) And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.

Perfected Faith – (v.19-24)

(1 Corinthians 10:1-5) Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink.

For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

True faith must be “perfected.”

(Genesis 22:11-12) But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am."

And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

Jesus said. (Luke 14:26-28) "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

(Romans 4:19-21) And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

Inclusive Faith – (v.25)

(Joshua 2:11b) "...for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath."

"The Bible recognizes no faith that does not lead to obedience, nor does it recognize any obedience that does not spring from faith. The two are opposite sides of the of the same coin." – A.W. Tozer

Alive Faith – (v.26)

"The true, living faith, which the Holy Spirit instills into the heart, simply cannot be idle." – Martin Luther

(Hebrews 11:6) But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

CONCLUSION:

Faith will not move mountains until it moves us!

(Ephesians 2:10) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.