



Title: Practical Living: Faith That Works

Scripture: James 2:14-26

Date: 06172018

Bible Version: ESV

BOTTOM LINE: True faith trusts and obeys God. Faith, without a love for God and others, is dead.

Faith Results in Good Works

Faith-is to trust and obey God

Works- a life of loving God and loving others

James describes three types of faith

1. Dead “faith- has words without love.

Vs. 14

Can that faith save him? James asks the question: is faith without works a saving faith?

-Saying you have faith is not enough.

-Genuine faith will always combine a trust in God and a changed lifestyle.

Vs. 15-16

“Go in peace, be warmed and filled” James asks what good are empty words without actions.

To fail in the most simple good work towards a brother or sister in need demonstrates that one does not have a living faith, and we can only be saved by a living faith in Jesus. - Guzik

-Our love for God should translate for a love for people.

-If convictions never lead to actions, what good are they?

Vs. 17

Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

-Dead faith produces no love for others. A real faith is a living faith that produces a love for God and a love for others.

Matthew 7:21

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

This warning of Jesus applies to people who speak or say things to Jesus or about Jesus, but don't really mean it. It isn't that they believe Jesus is a devil; they simply say the words very superficially. Their mind is elsewhere, but they believe there is value in the bare words and fulfilling some kind of religious duty with no heart, no soul, not spirit – only bare words and passing thoughts. - Guzik

2. Demonic “faith”- has information but no transformation.

Vs. 18

Show me your faith apart from works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

-James inserts an argument to combat the idea that faith and works are separate expressions of faith.

-How can you demonstrate your faith apart from action?

Vs. 19

Even the demons believe- and shudder!

-James is arguing that simply an intellectual assent, some agreement with a set of Christian teachings, an understanding of right doctrine is not a saving faith.

-Saying you believe in one God is not enough, true faith transforms our life, our thoughts, and our actions.

3. Dynamic faith- has a genuine love for God and others that results in action.

Vs. 20

Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

-James is saying a faith with no works is ineffective, empty, and useless, it's counterfeit.

-James says I'll show you two case studies of people who had active faith

Case Study # 1

Vs. 21-22

Was not Abraham our father justified by works..

-Abraham demonstrated his trust and faith in God when he offered his son on the altar.

-When was Abraham declared righteous? Does James contradict Paul?

Vs. 23-24

“Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

-James is quoting Genesis 15:6 to explain that Abraham was justified by faith when he believed.

-He was justified long before he offered Isaac up as a sacrifice, but his actions demonstrated his obedience and proved that his faith was real.

-James is saying the real faith, true faith, will show itself through works.

It is not faith AND works that saves a man, it is not faith OR works, it is faith THAT works. - Courson

-Paul also quotes Genesis 15:6 in Romans 4 and Galatians 3 to demonstrate that a man is saved by faith and nothing else.

These two positions are not contradictory. Faith alone unites us to Christ for righteousness, and the faith that unites us to Christ for righteousness does not remain alone. It bears the fruit of love. It must do so or it is dead, demon, useless faith and does not justify. - Piper

Galatians 5:6

“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision or uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.”

-Paul agrees, faith should be accompanied with love.

-Both James and Paul view good works as a proof of faith- not the path to salvation. – MacArthur

Case Study # 2

Vs. 25

Was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works...

-Rahab, a pagan prostitute, put her small faith into action and believed God for a new beginning.

-It was her belief in God and the fact she acted on her belief that made it a living faith.

-Both Abraham and Rahab, as opposite as they are, prove James' point that actions demonstrate our faith.

Vs. 26

Faith apart from works is dead.

-Faith without corresponding works, a love for God and others, is not true faith, it's dead.

A tree has been planted out into the ground. Now the source of life to that tree is at the root, whether it has apples on it or not; the apples would not give it life, but the whole of the life of the tree will come from its root. But if that tree stands in the orchard, and when the springtime comes there is no bud, and when the summer comes there is no leafing, and no fruit-bearing, but the next year, and the next, it stands there without bud or blossom, or leaf or fruit, you would say it is dead, and you are correct; it is dead. It is not that the leaves could have made it live, but that the absence of the leaves is a proof that it is dead. So, too, is it with the professor. If he has life, that life must give fruits; if not fruits, works; if his faith has a root, but if there be no works, then depend upon it the inference that he is spiritually dead is certainly a correct one. - Spurgeon

June 17th, 2018

Discuss

Dig Deeper



Practical Living: Faith That Works

James 2:14-26

3D Guide

DO.

BOTTOM LINE: True faith trusts and obeys God. Faith, without a love for God and others, is dead.



1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?



DISCUSS.

1. What is easier for you: to talk about your faith with others or demonstrating love towards them?
2. What is James saying in this passage about faith and obedience? What does true faith look like?
3. Why is it foolish to believe that faith can exist apart from works?
4. What examples in our society today can you think of that depict dead or demonic faith? How is dynamic faith different?

DO.



Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that was studied. Try a the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on blueletterbible.com or with their app.



Parents & Kids

TAKE **HOME**

DATE: **June 17th, 2018**

Bible Story: James 2: 14-26

1. Do people know that you believe in Jesus by what you say, what you do, or both?
2. James tells us that faith without works is dead. This means that people will know we are Christians by the things we say and do. When we have a heart that has been changed by God, how will our actions show that?
3. James 2:16 gave us the example, "If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?" James is telling us that it's not enough to just say nice things, but we have to take action to show that we mean them. If you say to your mom, "yes, I know I need to clean up my room and I will!" over and over again but then never do it, do you think she will believe you the next time you say it? Why not? In the same way, if we say that we love God but don't obey His word, will people believe us?
4. There is a saying, "if you talk the talk, you gotta walk the walk." This means that you have to follow through on your words with action! Can you give an example of what it looks like to talk the talk and walk the walk?

Memory Verse: "What good is it to say you have faith, when you don't do anything to show you really do have faith?" James 2:14

