



JAMES 2

FAITH THAT WORKS

Main Idea

Faith in our hearts is evident in the fruit of our lives.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

Series: The Book of James

Chapter Overview

- James 2 shows that genuine faith changes the way we treat people.
- Saving faith is more than intellectual agreement or emotional response; it produces obedience.
- Works do not save us, but saving faith works.
- Abraham and Rahab demonstrate the same truth: real faith acts.

KEY VERSE

“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” — James 2:26



I. Faith That Refuses Partiality — James 2:1-13

- Jesus is “the Lord of glory.” He alone deserves ultimate honor.
- Partiality judges people by outward appearance, status, wealth, or what they can offer us.
- The way we treat people reveals what we really believe about God.
- God’s standard is the “royal law”: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
- Favoritism is not merely bad manners; it is sin because it violates the law of love.
- Mercy is the natural overflow of a heart that has received mercy.

Personal Reflection

- Do I see people the way the world sees them, or the way Jesus sees them?
- Who am I most tempted to overlook because they cannot benefit me?
- Is mercy evident in the way I speak and act toward others?

Notes



II. Faith Produces Fruit — James 2:14-20

- James does not say the person has faith; he says the person says he has faith.
- A profession of faith with no fruit is empty, useless, and dead.
- Acts of mercy are not the means of salvation; they are evidence of salvation.
- Faith is not mere intellectual assent—the demons believe and tremble.
- Faith is not merely an emotional response.
- Living faith involves willing obedience.

REMEMBER: The fruit does not make the tree alive. The fruit shows that the tree is alive.

Truth	Meaning
Faith is not mere intellectual assent	Knowing correct doctrine is not the same as trusting Christ.
Faith is not simply emotion	Conviction, fear, or strong feelings do not by themselves equal saving faith.
Faith involves obedience	Real faith responds to God's Word and acts on what God has said.

Notes



III. Paul, James, and Abraham — James 2:20-24

- James and Paul are not contradicting one another; they are confronting different errors.
- Paul fights the idea that works can earn salvation.
- James fights the idea that faith can exist without works.
- Abraham believed God in Genesis 15 and was counted righteous.
- Years later, Abraham's willingness to offer Isaac in Genesis 22 showed that his faith was real.
- He was not saved because he offered Isaac; he offered Isaac because he already trusted God.

PAUL	JAMES
How is a sinner made right with God? By faith apart from works.	How do we know that faith is real? Because genuine faith produces works.
Concerned with the ROOT of salvation.	Concerned with the FRUIT of salvation.

SUMMARY
Paul shows us the root of faith. James shows us the fruit of faith. Abraham's life gives us a living picture of both.

Notes



IV. Rahab: Faith That Risks Everything — James 2:25–26

- Rahab gives us another example of the same kind of saving faith.
- Abraham believed God, and his faith produced obedience. Rahab believed God, and her faith produced obedience.
- Different people. Different circumstances. Same kind of faith.
- Grace reached into Rahab’s life, brought her into God’s people, and placed her in the line of Christ.
- Rahab believed the sovereign God and risked everything because she believed.
- James closes by reminding us that faith without works is dead.

ABRAHAM	RAHAB
Patriarch of Israel	Gentile prostitute living in Jericho
Known as the friend of God	Lived among the enemies of God
Near the top of the social order	Near the bottom of the social order

THREE REALITIES
Christ is the basis. • Faith is the means. • Works are the evidence.

Personal Reflection

- Has what I believe about God changed the way I live?

Notes