

## James: Faith Grows

James 2:20-26

**MAIN IDEA:** True faith is a living faith which expresses itself in works of righteousness. A faith that is working is a faith that is growing.

### I. TWO PICTURES OF FAITH (vv. 14,17, 24):

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ Faith, which does not save
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ Faith, which does save

### II. JUSTIFICATION, A RECAP OF JAMES 2:14-19

- A. Justification means “\_\_\_\_\_” before God
- B. Three realities:
  - 1. Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of our justification (2 Cor. 5:21)
  - 2. Faith is the \_\_\_\_\_ of our justification (Rom. 5:1)
  - 3. Works are the \_\_\_\_\_ of our justification (Matt. 25:25-46)
- C. Two reminders:
  - 1. These realities are only possible by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (Eph. 2:8-9)
  - 2. These realities are ultimately involved in the \_\_\_\_\_ before God (Rom. 2:6; 2 Cor. 5:10)

### III. JAMES & PAUL: TWO ASPECTS OF JUSTIFICATION & RIGHTEOUSNESS

#### A. Paul's focus:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Justification - the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Christian's life.
  - a) The moment you truly trust Christ is the moment you are justified before God.
  - b) In Ephesians 2:8-9, Paul wants us to avoid thinking that works are means of our salvation. Salvation is receiving, through faith, God's free gift of grace.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Righteousness - how we \_\_\_\_\_ before God

## B. James' focus:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Justification - the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Christians life
  - a) What happens on Judgement Day, when God declares us right in His sight. (Matthew 25)
  - b) In James 2:24, James wants us to avoid thinking that works are not at all important. Works are the evidence of salvation.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Righteousness - how we \_\_\_\_\_ before God

## IV. TWO CASE STUDIES ON FAITH EXPRESSED THROUGH WORKS (2:21-25)

- A. Abraham (Genesis 15 & 22) & Rahab (Joshua 2)
- B. True faith results in works of \_\_\_\_\_ obedience, despite the perceived \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

## V. FAITH GROWS (2:22)

- A. Luke 17:5 - "The apostle said to the Lord, '*increase our faith!*'"
  1. How do we increase our faith? How does our faith grow?
- B. James 2:22
  1. **ESV** - "*You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works*"
  2. **NASB** - "*You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected*"
  3. James says our works complete/perfect our faith
- C. The \_\_\_\_\_ nature of true faith:
 

*Saving faith = works of righteousness = greater faith = greater works*
- D. True faith is a living faith which expresses itself in works of righteousness. In turn, our works of righteousness builds up, strengthens, and perfects our faith. A true working faith, is a growing faith.
  1. This is how we grow in \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. This is how we grow in \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. This is how we grow in spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.

### ANSWER KEY

#### I. TWO PICTURES OF FAITH (vv. 14,17, 24):

- A. Dead
- B. Living

#### II. JUSTIFICATION, A RECAP of JAMES 2:14-19

- A. "to be declared right"

- B. Three realities:
  1. basis
  2. means
  3. evidence

- C. Two reminders:
  1. grace
  2. judgment

#### III. JAMES & PAUL: TWO ASPECTS OF JUSTIFICATION & RIGHTEOUSNESS

- A. Paul's focus:
  1. Initial ... inception
  2. Positional ... stand

- B. James' focus:
  1. Final ... confirmation
  2. Practical ... live

#### IV. TWO CASE STUDIES ON FAITH EXPRESSED THROUGH WORKS (2:21-25)

- B. radical ... sacrifice... risk.

#### V. FAITH GROWS (2:22)

- C. cyclical
- D.
  1. faith
  2. righteousness
  3. mature