

## Faith Resolutions

### Week 5: I Will Demonstrate Faith by Belief and Works

#### Series:

- Week 1: I Will Endure Trials (James 1:1-12)
- Week 2: I Will Trust God During Temptation (James 1:13-18)
- Week 3: I Will Hear and Obey God's Word (James 1:19-27)
- Week 4: I Will Not Favor One Person Over Another (James 2:1-13)
- Week 5: I Will Demonstrate Faith by Belief and Works (James 2:14-26)
- Week 6: I Will Speak with Self-Control (James 3:1-12)
- Week 7: I Will Live in God's Wisdom (James 3:13-18)
- Week 8: I Will Draw Near to God (James 4:1-10)
- Week 9: I Will Not Be Arrogant (James 4:11-17)
- Week 10: I Will Not Oppress (James 5:1-6)
- Week 11: I Will Be Patient (James 5:7-12)
- Week 12: I Will Pray in Faith (James 5:13-18)
- Week 13: I Will Help Restore Those Who are Wandering (James 5:19-20)

#### Scripture:

James 2:14-26

#### Motivation (Why You Need to Know It):

What is a resolution? It's a decision and determination *to do* or *not do* something.

Scripture is full of resolutions.

James wrote about resolutions that every Christian should have as a part of their life.

#### **Three Steps to a Resolution -**

- **A Decision to Change** (this is not enough by itself)
- **A Plan to Progress** (where the real work happens)
- **A Commitment to Endure** (Some quit at the first sign of failure)

Most never move past the first step because they don't prepare for the next two steps.

We'll be talking about the ***13 Faith Resolutions in the book of James.***

Fifth Faith Resolution – I Will Demonstrate Faith by Belief and Works.

## Information (What You Need to Know):

James asks a hard question to his readers –

**James 2:14 (NLT)** What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone?

Allow me to rephrase the question for clarity –

Can faith, without obedience and love for God, be genuine?

...or,

Can I say I'm a follower of Jesus without *showing* it?

But, how do we explain Paul's words in Ephesians concerning salvation being free from man's works?

**Ephesians 2:8 (ESV)** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

“Paul and James would agree that the basis of salvation is grace alone through faith, with works not the *basis* but the necessary *result* thereof” – ESV Study Bible

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

Works are the fruit, not the root of salvation.

Works never leads to faith, but genuine faith always leads to works.

### ***Three Steps to a Resolution:***

**Decision to Change – *Good works will be an evidence of faith***

- Genuine faith is more than just words

**James 2:15 (NLT)** Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, **16** and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? **17** So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. **18** Now someone may argue, “Some people have faith; others have good deeds.” But I say, “How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds.”

- Genuine faith is more than just belief in God

**James 2:19 (NLT)** You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. **20** How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless?

## Plan to Progress

*What's not normal for someone who claims to follow Christ?*

**Galatians 5:19 (NLT)** When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, **20** idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, **21** envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

*What's normal for someone who genuinely follows Christ?*

**John 10:27 (NLT)** My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

- **Listen to God** (reading His word)
- **Know God** (pursuing a relationship with God)
- **Obey God** (following His teachings)

**A Commitment to Endure – Allow the Holy Spirit to produce good works in you**

**Galatians 5:22 (NLT)** But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, and self-control.

*Attitudes of the mind*

- Love (a respect and devotion that leads to voluntary service for the Lord)
- Joy (happiness based on trust in God's control over all things)
- Peace (an inner calm that results from a right relationship with God)

*Attitudes toward others*

- Patience (endurance when painful circumstances are caused by others)
- Kindness (a genuine concern for the well-being of others)
- Goodness (loving actions toward others)

*General attitudes of the believer*

- Faithfulness (trustworthy and reliable)
- Gentleness (a teachable, humble attitude evidenced by submission to God/others)
- Self-Control (restraint of thoughts, emotions, and actions)

**Application (What You Need To Do):**

**The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works – Saint Augustine**