

THE BOOK OF
JAMES



A low-angle, close-up shot of a person's legs and feet as they walk on a rocky, gravelly path. The person is wearing dark blue jeans and brown leather hiking boots with thick, treaded soles. The path is composed of small stones and pebbles. In the background, there are rolling hills or mountains under a warm, hazy sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall tone is inspirational and contemplative.

Faith that works: The Marks of Genuine Faith

James 2:14-26

James 2:14-26 (NLT)

¹⁴ 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? ¹⁵ 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.

James 2:14-26 (NLT)

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.”

¹⁹ 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?

James 2:14-26 (NLT)

²¹ Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. ²³ And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." He was even called the friend of God. ²⁴ So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone. ²⁵ Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. ²⁶ Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.

Genuine Faith

Destination: Genuine Faith - Saving faith - is revealed by a transformed life.

- We are not saved by good works, but saving faith always produces them!

1. Real Faith is more than words (vs 14-17)
2. Real Faith is evident through obedience (vs 18-20)
3. Real Faith trusts God enough to act (vs 21-26)

Genuine Faith is more than words

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Genuine Faith is more than words

Practical challenge: Our faith should move us from sympathy to action

Instead of saying: “I’ll pray for you”

Also ask:

- How can I help?
- Can I spend time with you?”
- Can I bring a meal?
- Can I help financially?

Genuine Faith is evidenced through obedience

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Genuine Faith is proven through obedience

Practical questions:

1. Does my calendar reveal my faith?
2. Does my spending reveal my faith?
3. Does my marriage reveal my faith?
4. Does my workplace reveal my faith?
5. Would someone who never heard me speak know I belong to Christ?

We know we have a surrendered life to Christ when we will walk in obedience to His word and the voice of the Holy Spirit

Genuine Faith trusts God enough to act

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Genuine Faith trusts God enough to act

Practical challenge:

Q: Is there a step of obedience we have been delaying?

Maybe it's:

- Forgiving someone
- Serving
- Generosity
- Baptism
- Sharing your faith
- Reconciling a broken relationship
- Confessing hidden sin

**Faith is
shown by
movement**

In closing: The Faith Test

²⁶ Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.

**"If Christianity were put on trial this week,
would there be enough evidence in our daily life
to convict us of being a follower of Jesus?"**