

#ADULTING

THE BOOK OF JAMES

REFLECTION- Adults embrace a dynamic faith

1/09/2026

Passage: James 2:14-26

James 2:14-26 14 What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that? 17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself. 18 But someone may well say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” 19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. 20 But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? 22 You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “**AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,**” and he was called the friend of God. 24 You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. 25 In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? 26 **For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.**

- FAITH- a key doctrine!
 - A sinner is saved by faith- Ephesians 2:8-9
 - Believer must walk by faith (2 Cor 5:7) & is based on the Word of God (Rom 10:17)
 - Without faith it is impossible to please God- Hebrews 11:6
- DEAD faith- James 2:14-17 (intellect alone)
 - People who claim to have a saving faith but do not possess salvation. These people substitute words for deeds. They know the church words, maybe even some Bible verses but their walk does not match their talk. They may know the doctrine of salvation but have never submitted to Jesus.
 - Also see Matthew 7:21, 25:40; Luke 10:25-37; 1 John 3:17-18
- DEMONIC faith- James 2:18-19 (intellect + emotions)
 - James used bold and shocking words comparing the faith of his complacent readers to that of demons. Demons believe in the existence of God, the deity of Christ (Mark 3:11-12), a place of punishment (Luke 8:31), and recognize Jesus as Judge (Mark 5:1-13). James also reveals the demons have an emotional response to Jesus- they believe and tremble.
 - A person may be enlightened in his/her mind and stirred in their heart but that doesn't mean there is a response of surrender and submission to the cross.
- DYNAMIC faith- James 2:20-26 (intellect + emotions + will to surrender)
 - This is the only true saving faith and it involves the entire person. The mind understands the truth, the heart desires the truth, and the will acts upon the truth. Leads to obedience (which is not an isolated event) resulting in good works.
 - There is a unique working relationship with faith & works. No one is saved by faith + works, but by a faith that works. Shows we have been changed by Jesus.

Begin your study time with prayer. Ask God to reveal Himself to you, help you understand what you are reading, and transform you with His Word (Ps 119:18).

1. Read James 2:14-26 in multiple translations (NASB, ESV & Amplified are all great options- you can easily compare in the Bible app or on biblegateway.com). Let the Scripture wash over you. Pick out words/phrases that stand out. If you don't know the meaning of any words, look them up.
2. How would you describe saving faith?
3. Which two Bible characters does James use to illustrate saving faith? What did they have in common? What works were evident of their faith? (Read their stories in Genesis 15 & 22; Joshua 2 & 6)
4. Read Matthew 7:21-27. What does Jesus say is the evidence that someone is a true believer?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 13:5. What does it mean to examine yourself & test yourself in regards to your faith? How can regular examination strengthen your relationship with God?
6. Which of these three faiths (dead, demonic, dynamic) mentioned do you relate most to? If you fall into the first two, what questions do you have regarding Jesus, the Bible, etc? If you have a dynamic faith, what are some actions evident in your life to reflect your faith?