



Don't Be Fooled by Counterfeit Christianity!

James 2:14-26

James 2:14-17, *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.*

2 Corinthians 5:7, *For we walk by faith, not by sight...*

Hebrews 11:6, *Now without faith it is impossible to please God, for the one who draws near to Him must believe that He exists and rewards those who seek Him.* **HCSB**

Romans 14:23, *...whatever is not from faith is sin.* **NKJV**

I. God warns us not to have dead faith.

James 2:14-17; Matthew 7:20-21; Romans 10:9; Galatians 6:10; 1 John 3:17-18; Matthew 25:35-40

James 2:14-17, *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? ... ¹⁷ So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.*

Matthew 7:20-21, *Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions. ²¹ "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.*

Romans 10:9, *If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord **and** believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

Galatians 6:10, *Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.*

1 John 3:17-18, *If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion —how can God's love be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let's not merely*

say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

Matthew 25:35-40, *For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home.³⁶ I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.³⁷ “Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink?³⁸ Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing?³⁹ When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’⁴⁰ “And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’*

James 2:14, ...*Can that kind of faith save anyone?...*

Matthew 7:16-20, *You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act...¹⁷ A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit.¹⁸ A ...¹⁹ So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire.²⁰ Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.*

II. God warns against demonic faith. James 2:19-20; Titus 1:16

James 2:19-20, *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?*

A. Demons believe in the existence of God. James 2:19

B. Demons believe in the deity of Christ. Matthew 8:28-29

Matthew 8:28-29, *When Jesus arrived on the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gadarenes, two men who were possessed by demons met him. They came out of the tombs and were so violent that no one could go through that area.²⁹ They began screaming at him, “Why are you interfering with us, Son of God?*

C. Demons believe in the existence of Hell. Matthew 8:29-32

Matthew 8:29-32, ...*Have you come here to torture us before God’s appointed time?”³⁰ There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding in the distance.³¹ So the demons begged, “If you cast us out, send us into that herd of pigs.”³² “All*

right, go!" Jesus commanded them. So the demons came out of the men and entered the pigs, and the whole herd plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water.

D. Demons believe that Jesus is Judge.

Matthew 8:31

Matthew 8:31, *So the demons begged, "If you cast us out, send us into that herd of pigs."*

Titus 1:16, *Such people claim they know God, but they deny him by the way they live. They are detestable and disobedient, worthless for doing anything good.*

III. God requires dynamic faith. James 2:21-26

James 2:21-26, *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.

A. Proven by your works. James 2:17, 22-26

B. Proven by your witness. Acts 1:8

C. Proven by your worship. Matthew 22:37-38; Hebrews 10:25

Matthew 22:37-38, *Jesus replied, "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind."³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.*

Hebrews 10:25, *And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*

Apply God's Truth...

- 1. What does the FRUIT of your life say about your faith?**
- 2. Are demons more sincere in their faith than you?**
- 3. How do you need to respond to God's Word today?**