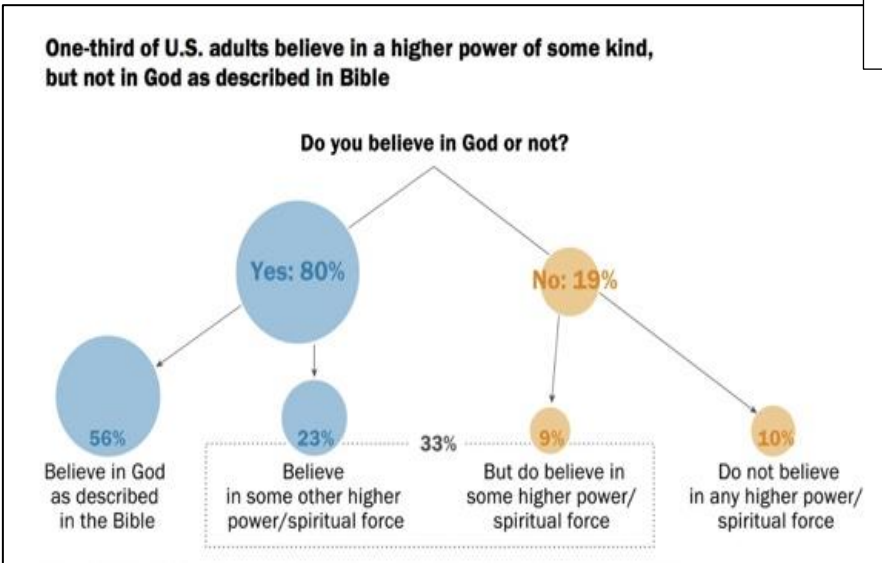


James: Doing > Hearing

Called to a Living Faith

James 2:14-26



Pew Research Center: "When Americans Say They Believe in God, What Do They Mean?" Survey Conducted December 4-18, 2017

Gallup: Only 76% of Christians *agreed completely* with the notion that all people, regardless of race, creed or wealth, are loved by God and therefore they should love all. But just 44% said the notion that "God calls me to be involved in the lives of the poor and suffering" *applies completely* to them.

Christian Headlines.com March 2018
Gallup Poll: *Americans Link Faith to Everyday Life*

"America is at the same time one of the most religious and one of the most _____ societies in the western world."

There is a kind of faith that does not _____.

James addresses an entirely different problem, for an entirely different audience, from an entirely different perspective, with an entirely different focus, by an entirely different logic than Paul.

ONE GOSPEL - TWO DEFENSES

	Galatians (Paul)	James
Target Audience	Gentile Christians after Paul's missionary journeys began	Jewish Christians prior to Paul's missionary journeys and epistles
Problem	<p>Legalism / License Keeping the Jewish law was necessary to be Christian.</p> <p>Paul's response: Good works have nothing to do with a sinner gaining a right standing before a holy God; it's only by grace through faith in the finished work of Christ—Galatians 1-4. A good life must follow—Galatians 5-6.</p>	<p>Laxity Faith is the only essential thing in salvation; obedience is optional. You can be saved through faith in Christ without it changing your attitudes and actions.</p> <p>James' response: <u>That kind of faith does not save.</u></p>
Approach	<p>Western The order of salvation is laid out in linear sequence.</p> <p>Paul gives clarity and precision to how a sinner gains a right standing before God and then how that righteous standing, gained as a gift by grace through faith, empowers the believer to live a righteous life before God through good works.</p>	<p>Eastern The reality of salvation is seen holistically.</p> <p>Although James recognizes one's spiritual birth as the sovereign act of God's grace through faith in Christ <u>preceding good works (1:18)</u>, he sees the believer's right standing before God and their righteous life before God as one and inseparable.</p>
Focus	<p>Root of Salvation Positional, unseen, the <u>basis</u> for one's relationship with God</p>	<p>Fruit of Salvation Practical, seen, <u>proof</u> of one's relationship with God</p>
Faith	Personal trust in Jesus and his finished work	(without obedience) Verbal profession Pious sentiment Mental assent Emotional reaction
Works	Attempting to gain God's acceptance by keeping God's Law	Christian lifestyle as a result of saving faith
Justification	Counted righteous in Christ by God and given the right to belong to God's family as <u>a gift of grace through faith in Christ</u>	The believer's righteous standing in Christ (their right to belong to God's family) is proven and completed <u>through faithful obedience as the fruit of their new life in Christ</u> , that is, their regeneration which accompanies justification.

A crucial part of initial salvation is not only justification, but _____.

We are justified by faith alone in Christ alone (Paul), but faith that justifies can never be _____ (James).

Real faith produces _____.

Saving faith is not simply something we _____ . (vv. 14-18)

Biblical faith is more than good, pious, well-intentioned words; saving faith shows itself in good works; it's more than righteous sentiments, it's _____.

Not everyone who professes Christ _____ Christ.

Saving faith is not simply acknowledging something as _____ . (v. 19)

Giving mental _____ to accurate doctrine is not saving faith.

What the demons believe about God produces in them a _____ !

You can know right things about God and not _____ God or _____ in God.

True belief in Jesus Christ is a quality of faith that trusts in him, rests on him, and commits oneself to him resulting in a _____ in one's attitudes and actions.

E.g., Parable of the Sower (**Matthew 13; Mark 4; Luke 8**); Simon the Sorcerer (**Acts 8**).

Saving faith is something you _____ . (vv. 20-26)

James doesn't see works apart from faith, or works instead of faith, or even works in addition to faith. He sees works _____ of faith.

The outworking of saving faith in the way we live is not optional, it's _____.

Abraham & Rahab: A Case Study in Contrasts:

Abraham	Rahab
Man	Woman
Jew	Gentile
Patriarch	Prostitute
"Somebody"	"Nobody"

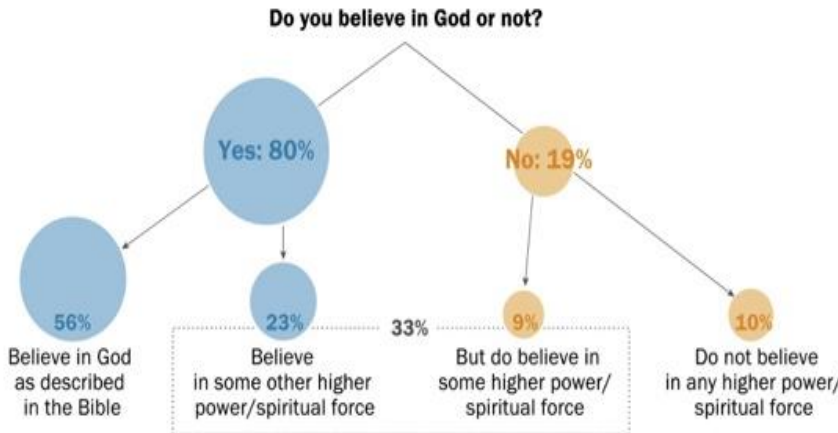
2 Corinthians 13:5 – *Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you?—unless of course, you fail the test!*

Galatians 5:6 – *The only thing that counts is faith _____.*

James: Doing > Hearing
Called to a Living Faith
 James 2:14-26

Pew Research Center: "When Americans Say They Believe in God, What Do They Mean?"
 Survey Conducted December 4-18, 2017

One-third of U.S. adults believe in a higher power of some kind, but not in God as described in Bible



Gallup: Only 76% of Christians agreed completely with the notion that all people, regardless of race, creed or wealth, are loved by God and therefore they should love all. But just 44% said the notion that "God calls me to be involved in the lives of the poor and suffering" applies completely to them.
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A crucial part of initial salvation is not only justification, but **regeneration**.

We are justified by faith alone in Christ alone (Paul), but faith that justifies can never be **alone** (James).

Real faith produces **faithfulness**.

Saving faith is not simply something we **profess. (vv. 14-18)**

Biblical faith is more than good, pious, well-intentioned words; saving faith shows itself in good works; it's more than righteous sentiments, it's **righteous action**.

Not everyone who professes Christ **possesses** Christ.

Saving faith is not simply acknowledging something as **true. (v. 19)**

Giving mental **assent** to accurate doctrine is not saving faith.

What the demons believe about God produces in them a **religious experience**!

You can know right things about God and not **know** God or **believe** in God.

True belief in Jesus Christ is a quality of faith that trusts in him, rests on him, and commits oneself to him **resulting in a real change** in one's attitudes and actions.

E.g., Parable of the Sower (**Matthew 13; Mark 4; Luke 8**); Simon the Sorcerer (**Acts 8**).

Saving faith is something you **do. (vv. 20-26)**

James doesn't see works apart from faith, or works instead of faith, or even works in addition to faith. He sees works **because** of faith.

The outworking of saving faith in the way we live is not optional, it's **inevitable**.

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Galatians 5:6 – *The only thing that counts is faith **expressing itself through love**.*