

James: Faith at Work

"The Bible's Blueprint for Faith & Works" (Pt 1)

James 2:14-19

Sunday, July 19th, 2026

~ In this section of James' letter he addresses a problem, and it's not just a problem for Christians. It's a problem that everyone struggles with. It's the problem of being *real, authentic, and genuine*.

> It is easy to claim to have faith. Anyone can have faith in literally anything... but what does that faith look like & where does it come from?

> James' premise = Faith is easily claimed, but he adds that the faith someone claims they have may not be a genuine, saving faith. This is not a man made faith.

~ This means this portion of James' letter is vitally important - the stakes are high!

The Bible's Blueprint for Faith & Works:

I. Counterfeit Faith

~ "*What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can **that** faith save him?*" (James 2:14)

~ Notice the little word "*that*" - What does James mean? It means that this isn't just any ole' kind of faith. This *faith* has power... it actually does something.

1. We _____ Counterfeit Faith by _____
Lifeless Faith (vs. 14-17)

> James is dabbling in the ever important theological concept of salvation by faith alone, in God alone.

~ When it comes to salvation, faith, and works: Does James contradict the teaching of Paul? This is fun & important to look at.... We will wrestle with that problem more next week!

~ Verses 14-17 emphasize the importance of examining our own hearts and our own actions as evidence of our faith.

> Note Paul's words in Galatians 5:6. He said something so small and inconspicuous, yet so profound. "*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.*"

> We could ask: Who (or what) is love? = **1 John 4:16**

II. Genuine Faith

2. We _____ Genuine Faith by _____ Verbal Confession (vs. 18-19)

~ In vs. 18 James confronts claims of faith without deeds. And in vs. 19 he notes that believing in God is one thing, but even the demons believe and they shudder!

~ A more modern day example of this problem is found or best understood in the philosophy of "*live and let live.*" This is individualism ... and it doesn't work in the realm of saving faith!

~ The MOST important question someone could ask - "What does it take for man to be forgiven and saved?" **The Answer** = there is only one way; there is only one Savior.

~ Matthew 9:29 - "**According to your faith let it be done to you.**"