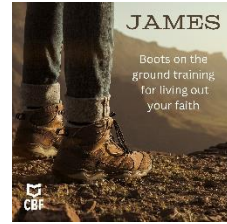


## **James 2:14-26 – Faith without works is dead?**

\*\*\* Salvation is by faith, and works has nothing to do with accepting God's gift of salvation!

- Ephesians 2:8-9, Galatians 2:16, Titus 3:5



### **1. So what is James talking about when he states, “So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead – vv.17-20, 26? (3 illustrations)**

#### **a. Caring for the poor and hungry – vv.15-16**

- To tell a cold, hungry person to “Go in peace, be warmed, and filled” is worthless.
- To truly show compassion, one must act on those words, actually DO something to help people.

#### **b. Abraham's obedience to sacrifice Isaac (Genesis 22:1-19) – vv. 21-24**

- What would it have meant if Abraham had not taken Isaac to the mountain to sacrifice him?
- Abraham demonstrated his faith to the point that he believed God would raise Isaac from the dead! (Hebrews 11:19)

#### **c. Rahab in Jericho (Joshua 2:1-21) – v.25**

- She had heard about the miracles God had performed for Israel and believed in Him.
- When faced with a choice of staying true to her native city and people or following God, she chose God.
- Her action to protect the spies and remain in the doomed city during the attack confirmed that her faith was real.

### **2. How does James' statement fit with the rest of the Bible (salvation by faith without works)?**

a. If we say we have faith in God and nothing in our life shows that faith, the question should be, “How real is our faith?”

b. The Bible is clear that a true faith in God WILL produce fruit in our lives.

- Ephesians 2:10, Galatians 5:22-23, John 15:5, Matthew 5:16

## **Thoughts to Ponder**

1. How “alive” is your faith? Has God changed your life since you were saved?
2. Is your faith driving you to produce action for God? (2 Corinthians 5:14)
3. True faith in God = Works for Him, Worthless faith (faked or uncertain faith) = No works