

MAKING

FAITH

WORK

JAMES 2:17

REAL VS. PHONY FAITH

CARE & MISSIONS PASTOR DAN SLAGLE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

1. **Intro:** What sort of home environment did you grow up in—one that was very strict and authoritarian or one that was more “anything goes” and passive? How do you think that shaped you into the person you are today?
2. **Read James 2:14–19.** How do these verses expand the meaning of faith as more than simply belief? In other words, how would you define faith based on this passage?
3. **Read James 2:20–23 & Genesis 22:1–18.** Abraham is given as an example of “faith and actions working together.” How does this account demonstrate this principle in Abraham’s life?
4. **Read James 2:24 and Ephesians 2:8–10.** How do we reconcile these seemingly contradictory passages?
5. **Read James 2:25 & Joshua 2.** James also holds Rahab up as an example of faith and action working together. When have you, like Abraham and Rahab, had to do something (take action) in response to trusting God (faith)? What was the result? How might God want to speak to you today through his faithfulness in the past?
6. **Read James 2:26 & Romans 5:8.** Which side of the coin do you see yourself living out more—a faith based on works or a belief without works? As a result, what is your action step from this sermon? What is something you can do to put your faith in action? Or how can you check your motives for good works and ensure they are a response to God’s love instead of an attempt to earn God’s love?

QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

1. **Read Ephesians 2:8.** What does it mean “for it is by grace you have been saved”?
2. **Read Matthew 5:16.** Why should we do good things?
3. Can you do ANYTHING to make God love you more than He already does?