

James 2:14-26  
“*The Practical Side of Faith*”

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (James 2:14-26)

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: “*The Practical Side of Faith*”

~ INTRO ~

TODAY OUR STUDY...

- Takes us beyond **theory & ideas** of walking with God...
  - AND into how a believer lives as a Christian.

THIS PORTION OF JAMES...

- Is all about results!

CHURCHES ARE A GREAT PLACE...

- To bring hurting people.
  
- But Church are also a great place...
  - To find healed people!
    - The results of genuine faith.

JAMES IS TEACHING US...

- That real faith is visible!

SO... CATCH THIS:

- The whole point in these verses today...
  - Is to encourage an authentic faith...
    - NOT to stir up doubts about one's salvation!

JAMES...

- Is teaching us there are expressions that come with true faith.
  - AND what the evidence of true faith looks like.

“*The Practical Side of Faith!*”

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**IDEA #1 – QUESTIONS ABOUT FAITH:** READ (v.14) NLT

THIS VERSE...

- Presents us with two **faith probing questions**:
  - a) What good is faith without actions? (no use)
  - b) Can that type of faith save anyone? (no)

SO...

- It's super important for us to wrap our minds around this.
  - We MUST understand what he's teaching us.

LAST YEAR WE FINISHED...

- A year-long study in the book of Romans...
  - AND Paul taught us (in Jesus) we're *Justified!*

(*de-ki-A-oo*)...

- **Declared righteous** as in a legal proceeding.
  - That Is the “*root of salvation!*”
    - Being saved by faith & nothing else.

BUT... MOVING FORWARD... THE PRACTICAL SIDE OF FAITH...

- James uses the same Greek word (*de-ki-A-oo*) (v.21)
  - Which means to **Demonstrate as righteous**...
    - This is the fruit of salvation after being saved.

POINT BEING...

- Without a ROOT there is NO FRUIT.
  - A faith that produces no fruit is NOT a saving faith!
    - It's NOT a genuine faith.

**IDEA #2 – QUALITIES OF FAITH:** READ (vv.15-20) NLT

HERE IN THE NEXT SEVERAL VERSES...

- We learn about the qualities of faith in Jesus...
  - The characteristics we've inherited!

**Four Qualities of Faith:**

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1) (vv.15-16) Fruit from the root... **Faith engages needs.**

- We get involved when we see a need.

WHEN YOU SEE A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY...

- Suffering a need...

- Those that CAN help SHOULD help!
  - Faith engages!!!

**BUT NOTICE (v.16)...**

- James' example... says a dead faith does nothing more...

- Than lip service = “*Good bye and have a good day.*”
  - I'll be praying for you!

\*(1 John 3:17) NLT

2) (v.17) Faith shouldn't exist in a hidden bubble!

- **Faith is** to be **expressed in outward actions.**
  - (Our actions speak louder than our words).

THE IDEA...

- Is... genuine faith always has results!

- If it doesn't...
  - It's a DEAD faith.

A DEAD FAITH MEANS:

- Useless / ineffective / impotent

- It's a “*phony-faith*”

3) (v.18) **Faith is** NOT invisible, but **prominent in your life.**

THE IDEA...

- Applies to the person who says, “*I have a private faith!*”

- This person says things like, “*I keep my faith to myself.*”

AND THIS IS EXACTLY JAMES' POINT!

- To move the ignorance... (of a passive faith person)...

- Into ACTION so God can use them.

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- 4) (vv.19-20) Faith is not an intellectual exercise...
- But it’s an issue of the heart (Rom. 10:9).
    - **Faith flows from the heart.**

THE KEY HERE...

- Speaks to the intellectual.
  - This type of person has theology down...
    - They know the Bible verses!

BUT THE COLLECTION OF FACTS...

- Has NOT penetrated the heart.
  - There’s no effect on the practical movement of hands & feet.

**HERE’S A LESON FOR LIVING:**

- Accurate theology never replaces an obedient life.
  - We’re called to be doers of the word & not forgetful hears.
  - OR (v.19) that person is on the same footing as demons.

**IDEA #3 – EXAMPLES OF FAITH:** READ (vv.21-26) NLT

ABRAHAM...

- A guy that came to faith when he was 50-yrs old...
  - Living in the well to-do area of Mesopotamia.
    - He was a pagan worshiper of a moon god.
  - He was Rich / Respected /& Religious.

RAHAB...

- The prostitute from Jericho in the prime of beauty...
  - Was disgraced, despised, & had a discolored life.

BOTH OF THESE PEOPLE...

- Came to a real faith in the LORD...
  - And their faith was reflected in the lives they lived.

\*Their belief was tied together with a whole-life response!

- Their faith was active & visible!

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~ IN CLOSING ~

**HOW DO I DO THAT?**

By putting Jesus OVER Jeff.

(Ps. 37:3) says it by putting attitude & actions into motion!

**EXAMPLE:**

Suppose a person in your *Digital-Discipleship* group...

- Is going thru a setback...
  - And the kids needs clothes / food / haircut / etc.
    - Don't say... “*we will be praying for you*”

James is saying that doesn't cut it.

- Put your faith into action & DO SOMETHING!

When there's opportunity...

- OR a need surfaces at church...
  - Step up & step out!

AMEN!

~ LET'S PRAY ~