

PART FIVE HANDOUT JAMES 2: 14-26 FALSE FAITH

In Chapter One...We Saw that Living as a Disciple of Christ, Requires that Our Relationship with Jesus Impacts Every Area of Our Life Right Here and Now.

- Our Values Determine Our Evaluations! **OUTLOOK DETERMINES OUTCOME.**
- His Point: True Religion is Displayed through Our Actions and a Controlled Tongue.
- Doers of the Word Puts God's Word into Practice. Allows it to Transform Our Life.
- KEY: Put God's Word into Action and Allow it to Shape—Transform Our Lives.

We Saw that...Faith is a key doctrine in the Christian life. The Sinner is Saved by Faith. Eph. 2:8-9, The Believer Must Walk by Faith 2nd Corinthians 5:7. Without faith, it is Impossible to Please God Heb 11:6.

- Faith is Not some Kind of Nebulous Feeling that We Work Up; **Faith is Confidence that God's Word is True and the Conviction that Acting Upon that Word Brings His Blessing!**

James 2: 14-26 discusses the Relationship Between Faith and Works. What Kind of Faith Really Saves a Person? Is it Necessary to Perform Good Works in Order to be Saved? James Answers these Questions by Explaining that there are **3 Kinds of Faith, But Only ONE That Is "TRUE SAVING FAITH"**.

- Vs 14-17 Speak to **DEAD FAITH** People with Dead Faith, Substitute Words for Deeds! Say the Correct things, Quote the right Bible verses. **But, Their Walk doesn't Measure Up to their Talk.**
- Vs 16 A needy Believer comes to fellowship, the person with Dead Faith sees his needs says some pious words, But does nothing to meet the persons needs!
- Believers have an Obligation to Meet the Needs of People. Gal 6:10; Matt 25:40; 1 John 3:17,18

VS 14 "If someone claims to have faith But has no deeds? "Can such faith save him?" James says **NO!**

- Any Declaration of Faith that Does NOT Result in a Changed Life and Good Works is a False Declaration! **That is Dead Faith Verse 17.**
- The Person with Dead Faith has Only an Intellectual Experience. He knows the doctrine of Salvation...He knows the Right Words, But he Does NOT Back Up his Words with his Works.
- Dead Faith is Not Saving Faith! Dead Faith is Counterfeit and Leads the Person to a False Confidence of Eternal Life.

In Verses 18-19 James Speaks About the Second Faith...**DEMONIC FAITH!** Demons Believe in the Existence of God; they are Neither Atheist nor Agnostic. They also believe in the Deity of Christ. Mark 3:11-12 Luke 8:31 makes clear that they Believe in the Existence of a Place of Punishment. Mark 5:1-13 They Recognize Jesus as the Judge & Submit to the power of His Word!

- **James 2:19 Tells Us...The Demons Believe and Shudder.** But it is Not a Saving experience to Believe and Shudder. **A Person can be Stirred in his Heart and Be Lost Forever!**
- **POINT:** True Saving Faith Involves Something More, Something that Can Be Seen and Recognized **A CHANGED LIFE.** Read Vs 18 **KEY:** *A Person Cannot Show Their Faith Without Works/Deeds!*

POINT: Being a Christian Involves Trusting Christ and Living for Christ; You Receive the Life...Then You Reveal the Life! Faith that is Barren is NOT Saving Faith! The Greek word Translated Dead in verse 20 Carries the Meaning of Barren or Idol, like Money Drawing NO Interest.

James Versus 20 to 26 Describes the Only Kind of Faith that Can Save the Sinner...**DYNAMIC FAITH!**

- Dynamic Faith Is A Real Faith that Has Power, and Results In A Changed Life!
- James says, Dynamic Saving Faith is Based on the Word of God.
- Romans, 10:17 says, Faith, comes by Hearing and Hearing by the Word of God,
- **Faith is Only as Good As its Object. The man in the jungle bows before an idol of stone, and trusted to help him, But He Receives NO Help.**

POINT: No Matter how Much Faith a Person May Generate...IF It Is NOT Directed At the Right Object...It Will Accomplish Nothing!

- We Are NOT Saved By “Faith in Faith”! We Are Saved By Faith In Jesus Christ Alone, As Revealed in His Word!
- **KEY: Dynamic Faith is Based on God's Word, and it Involves the Whole Person. Dynamic Faith Involves the Will!**

POINT: The Whole Person Plays a Part in True Saving Faith. The Mind Understands the Truth The Heart Desires the Truth...And The Will ACTS Upon The Truth.

- True Faith is Not Merely a Passive Acceptance of a Belief...But an Active Commitment to Action, Even when Faced with Potential Negative Outcomes.
- It Highlights the Practical, Action-Oriented Aspect of Faith. Suggesting that True Belief is Demonstrated Through Obedience and a Willingness to Accept the Results of that Obedience.

True, Saving Faith Leads to Action...Dynamic Faith is Not Intellectual Contemplation or Emotional Consternation...Dynamic Faith Leads to Obedience on the Part of Our Will. This Obedience is Not an Isolated Event: It Continues Throughout Our Entire Life. It Leads to Works!

James illustrates this Doctrine in the Lives of two well-known Bible persons: Abraham and Rehab. Abraham was a Jew; Rehab A Gentile. Abraham was a Godly man, but Rehab was a Sinful woman, a Harlot.

- Abraham was a Friend of God...While Rehab Belonged to the Enemies of God. But what they had in common was that they both exercised, saving Faith in God.

God called Abraham out of the Chaldee's to lead him into Canaan and to make out of him the Great Nation of Israel. It was through Israel that God would Bring the Savior into the World. Genesis 15 records Abraham's salvation experience. At night God showed His servant the stars and gave him a promise, “So shall thy seed, your descendants be! Abraham responded, he Believed in the Lord and it was Counted to Him for Righteousness

- **The Word Counted is a Financial Term, which Means to Put to One's Account.**
- As a Sinner, Abraham Spiritual Bank Book was Empty. He was Spiritually Bankrupt! But he Trusted God, and God Put Righteous on Abraham's Account.
- **Abraham did not work for this Righteousness, he Received it as a Gift from God!**

Justification is the Act of God Declaring the Believing Sinner Righteous on the Basis of Christ's Finished Work on the Cross. **It is NOT a Process. It's Not something the Sinner Does;** It's something God Does for the Sinner when he Trusts Christ. It is A Once for All Event it Never Changes.

KEY>> We Can Tell That a Person is Truly Justified by Faith Through Their Changed Life...A Life that Obeys Gods Will...Demonstrated By His Works!

James Second Illustration is Rehab, A Great Example of Savings Faith. Rehab Responded with her Mind and her Emotions...But Also Responded with her Will: She Risked her own life to protect the Jewish spies, and she further risked her life by sharing the good news of deliverance with the members of her family.

- Rehab, an Immoral person, is a great Example of God's Grace...Because when you realize the small amount of information she had, you can see how marvelous her faith really was.

James Emphasizes that the Mature Christian Practices the Truth in Their Daily Lives.

- His Faith is Not the Dead Faith of the Intellectuals or the Demonic Faith of the Fallen Spirits. It is the Dynamic Faith that Changes Life and Goes to Work for God!

“LIFE” POINT: A Dynamic Christian Life Requires A Commitment To Maturing Growth, Relying On God's Power, And Actively Building His Kingdom.