

HOW TO LIVE LIKE JESUS
Genuine Faith
James 2:14-26
Week 5 July 17, 2022
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What comes first, faith or works?

Can you have faith and do no works?

THE MAIN POINT

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.
James 2:14-17

If your faith, what you believe about God, does not present itself in a changed life, it is not real faith.

James' point is as a believer you will do acts of love.

THE ARGUMENT FOR FAITH

But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. James 2:18-19 NIV

First argument:

Having faith is to have a relationship with God.

Second argument:

There is one all-powerful God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is powerful and loving and has a plan for our life.

TWO EXAMPLES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

First Example

Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. 24 You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone. James 2:21-24 NIV

Abraham knew it was God.

Abraham trusted God even though what God asked was unspeakable.

Abraham knew God would provide.

Abraham believed God so God provided a sacrifice for our sins.

Second Example

In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?

James 2:25 NIV

A prostitute was considered righteous because of her faith.

Proof that God forgives sin and cleans us up.

The stories show us no one is perfect. Far from it.

But with faith God will walk with us and bless us.

THE FINAL STATEMENT

For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

James 2:26 NAS

Faith and deeds of compassion are inseparable.