

*Is your life backing up the faith you claim—or is it contradicting it?*

**Is your faith lip service or is it a lifestyle?**

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? <sup>15</sup>Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup>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? <sup>17</sup>In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. James 2:14-19

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Matthew 7:21

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

**Belief without obedience is not enough.**

<sup>20</sup>You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?

<sup>21</sup>Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup>You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

<sup>25</sup>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? <sup>26</sup>As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead. James 2:20-25

**Let’s Talk About It**

James challenges us to consider what kind of faith we actually have. He makes it clear that real faith is more than words or belief—it’s something that shows up in our actions. A faith that doesn’t move toward others in love and obedience is incomplete and ultimately lifeless. James shows that genuine trust in God is revealed through what we do, not just what we say. This doesn’t mean we earn our salvation, but that true faith naturally produces a changed life. Ultimately, James invites us to examine our lives and step into a faith that is active, alive, and expressed through how we live.

James 2:14-26; Matthew 7:21; Matthew 5:16

- Which part of the message impacted and challenged you?
- Read James 2:14-17. How does James describe the difference between living faith and dead faith? Why do you think James is so direct about faith needing to be lived out?
- Read James 2:18-26. How would you explain the relationship between faith and works? Why is belief alone (even correct belief) not enough, according to James?
- Where do you see your faith actively shaping your everyday life right now? Is there an area where your faith feels more like belief than action?
- What would it look like for your faith to be more visible in your daily life? What is one step of obedience God is challenging you to right now?

**Take a Step**

- Consider an area in your life where your faith has not yet turned to action. Take a step toward obedience this week.
- Take one intentional step to meet a real need—serve, encourage, or help someone in a tangible way this week.

**Here’s My Prayer**

God, thank You for showing me that real faith is meant to be lived out. Holy Spirit, reveal where there’s a gap between what I believe and how I live, and give me the courage to take the next step of obedience. Help me love others in tangible ways and trust You enough to put my faith into action this week. In Jesus’ name, amen.