

Faith And Works

James 2:14-26

Review:

- Must be a “doer” and not a “hearer only.”
James 1:22-25
- Inactive faith renders “vain” one’s religion.
James 1:26-27
- A “doer of the word” does not discriminate on account of appearance. James 2:1-13

Faith & Works – James 2:14-26

Three Divisions Of The Text:

- Can faith without works save? 2:14-17
- Can faith (saving faith) be separated from works? 2:18-25
- Conclusion: Faith without works is dead.
2:26

The Proposition Stated

– James 2:14

James 2:14 “What doth it profit, my brethren, if a man say he hath faith, but have not works? can that faith save him?”

Importance of faith.

John 3:16 “whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

John 3:36 “He that believeth on the Son hath eternal life.”

Importance of faith.

Romans 5:1-2 “Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; through whom also we have had our access by faith into this grace wherein we stand.”

Galatians 3:26-27 “For ye are all sons of God, through faith, in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ.”

The Proposition Illustrated

– James 2:15-16

James 2:15-17 “If a brother or sister be naked and in lack of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Go in peace, be ye warmed and filled; and yet ye give them not the things needful to the body; what doth it profit?”

Even so faith, if it have not works, is dead in itself.”

- Saving faith “works by love.” cf. Galatians 5:6

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Faith Without Works. Verse 14

- Profession is not enough. Luke 6:46; Matthew 23:3; 7:21ff
- Lord demands doing. Matthew 7:24; Acts 2:37; 2 Peter 1:10

Faith without works condemns!

“Wherefore, **that we are justified by faith only, is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort.**” (METHODIST CHURCH “The Articles of Religion,” Art. IX; The Book of Discipline, page 57)

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Can (Saving) Faith Be Separated From Works? – James 2:18

James’ challenge:

“show me thy faith apart from (thy) works.”
cf. Matthew 7:21

Demons believe and shudder. James 2:19

- Jesus was their destroyer. Mark 1:24; 5:7
- Jesus was to torment them. Matthew 8:29

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Saving Faith Illustrated

Abraham. Verses 21-23

- “Abraham ... justified by works, in that he offered up Isaac.” James 2:21
- “By faith Abraham ... offered up Isaac.” Hebrews 11:17
- Read Genesis 22:1-14. (Note words of action.)

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Saving Faith Illustrated

Abraham. Verses 21-23

- “Abraham ... justified by works, in that he offered up Isaac.” James 2:21
- “By faith Abraham ... offered up Isaac.” Hebrews 11:17
- Read Genesis 22:1-14. (Note words of action.)
- Different Kinds of works?
 - Human, meritorious works. Ephesians 2:8-9
 - Works of the Law of Moses. Galatians 3:5,11
 - Works of obedience. Ephesians 2:10; cf. John 6:29

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Saving Faith Illustrated

Abraham. Verses 21-23

- NOTE: “Thou seest that faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect.” verse 22

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Saving Faith Illustrated

Rahab. Verse 25

- “By faith Rahab ... received the spies with peace.” Hebrews 11:31
- “Rahab ... justified by works, in that she received the messengers and sent them out another way.” James 2:25
- Read Joshua 2:1-21. (Note words of action.)
- NOTE: “And in like manner ...” “Thou seest that faith wrought with his (her) works, and by works was faith made perfect.” verse 22

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Salvation By Grace Through Faith ... Ephesians 2:8-9

➤ What did the Ephesians do that Paul calls, “Saved by Grace Through Faith ...”?

1. Heard – Ephesians 1:13; Romans 10:17
2. Believed – Ephesians 1:13; Acts 19:5, 18
3. Repented – Acts 19:19; 20:21
4. Confessed – Acts 19:18; Romans 10:9,10
5. Baptized – Acts 19:5; 2:38

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Final Statement:

James 2:17 “Even so faith, if it have not works, is dead in itself.”

James 2:20 “But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith apart from works is barren?”

James 2:26 “For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, even so faith apart from works is dead.”

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Martin Luther's Explanation –

- Rejected the book of James.
“James is a **right strawy** epistle,” ... “no gospel character in it,” ... “**I will not have it in my Bible** in the number of the proper chief books.”

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