

Reflection Questions: If I truly have faith, what works prove that my faith is genuine? What needs do I see that I can meet? Do I meet them or do I say, *Go in peace, be warmed and be filled?* What needs can I meet this week?

How can we pray for one another and our church this week?

Quotes to Ponder

The kind of faith that utters orthodox words but produces no deeds is useless and dead. It has no value for humanity in this life or the next.

Daniel M. Doriani

James is not really contrasting faith and works, as if these were two alternative options in one's approach to God. He is, rather, contrasting a faith that, because it is inherently defective, produces no works and a faith that, because it is genuine, does result in action.

Douglas Moo

The genuineness of a profession of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord is evidence more by what a person does than by what he claims. A person who professes Christ but who does not live a Christ-honoring, Christ-obeying life is a fraud.

John MacArthur

The kind of faith through which we are saved is a living faith which is not mere intellectual assent to certain truths but a faith which expresses itself in good works and righteous actions.

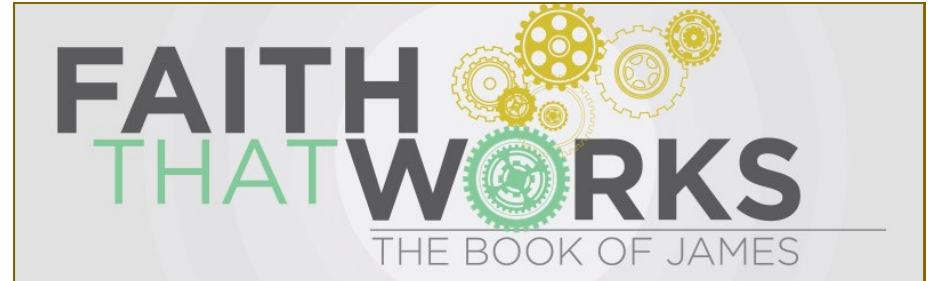
James Montgomery Boice

C.H. Spurgeon is credited with the view that "If you want to give a hungry man a tract, wrap it up in a sandwich." With great respect, he might better have said, "If you want to give a hungry man a sandwich, wrap it up in a tract."

J.A. Motyer

O it is a living, busy active mighty thing, this faith. It is impossible for it not to be doing good things incessantly. It does not ask whether good works are to be done, but before the question is asked, it has already done this, and is constantly doing them. Whoever does not do such works, however, is an unbeliever. He gropes and looks around for faith and good works, but knows neither what faith is nor what good works are. Yet he talks and talks, with many words, about faith and good works.

Martin Luther



#14 Faith or Works (2:14-19)

Sermon Notes

June 2, 2019

1. We are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone
2. There is a false faith that does not save
3. Faith without works is not true faith
4. One can be doctrinally correct and unsaved

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you?
2. What is true and saving faith? What Scriptures do you get your answer from?
3. What do the questions in *James 2:14* imply about faith without works?
4. How do the two questions of *James 2:14* related to *verses 1-13*?
5. What would you think of someone who acts like the person in *James 2:15-16*? What would you say their true attitude is? Have you ever been this person?
6. How does the illustration in *James 2:15-16* help you understand the faith/works balance of the Christian life (cf. *Matthew 25:31-46*)?
7. Read *James 2:17*. Is James saying that faith isn't enough to save us? Explain. What do *Romans 3:21-31* and *Ephesians 2:8-10* add to your understanding of faith?
8. What is James' conclusion to words without works (*James 2:17*)?
9. Read *James 2:18*. Didn't Paul say that the Spirit sovereignly distributes such gifts (*1 Corinthians 12*)? Didn't he say that faith itself was one such gift (*1 Corinthians 12:9*; cf. *Romans 12:3*)? How then can James

demand that all Christians possess both faith and works?

10. Is an intellectual belief that God is who He says He is and that Jesus died and rose again enough for salvation (*James 2:19*)? Explain.

What could you conclude about the value of affirming a creed or statement of faith? Does the kind of faith that affirms orthodox theology, but produces no distinctively Christian deeds, save?

11. Why do the demons *shudder* (*James 2:19*)?
12. A person makes a profession of faith, gets involved in serving the Lord, but then falls away. How can we know if his faith is genuine or false? Can we know? Explain.
13. When should someone's claim to have faith be received with skepticism? Why?
14. In what way should the lifestyle of a Christian verify his faith?
15. How is it that by meeting the needs of others we demonstrate an authentic faith in Jesus (*1 John 3:17-18*)?
16. What kind of faith is dead and useless (*Matthew 7:17-20*; *James 2:19-20*)?