

James

(7) Faith without Works

James 2:14-17

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? 15 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. NIV

How to identify *true* faith and *phony* faith...2:14-19

Regarding our faith, what does Paul admonish everyone to do? IICor.13:5

Test yourself to see if your faith is real! What a great admonition! Examine yourself!

So what is James also admonishing 'my brothers' to do? James 2:14

Examine yourself! Do you claim to have faith? If yes, do you have deeds to back it up?

Why is this self-examination an absolutely valid test? IJn.3:7-10; Mt.7:15-23

Because 'anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God...'. What you practice!

Is James challenging Paul, that true salvation is through faith? 2:14, 22, 24; see Gal.2:15-16

Not at all! Salvation is by faith alone. God sees that. That faith -> works, we see that.

What is James' first real-life true-faith test case? 2:15 And the evaluation? 2:16

A brother/sister is in need of basic living essentials. Wonderful Words! What good is that?

And what is James' evaluation of this response to a brother's needs? 2:17

This type of faith is dead! Not true saving faith. Ignoring such need is showing dead faith.

But what is the hypothetical challenge to such a rebuke? 2:18

Is faith alone enough? How can you show me your faith w/o works? Show by your works.

Is the kind of faith that even says, "I believe there is one God", enough? 2:19

NO! Even the demons believe that, and shudder! This 'faith' (w/o works) is not true faith.

Consider these (2) examples from Scripture...2:20-26

Who's the first example James uses to prove faith w/o works is dead? 2:20-21 see Rom.4:11

Abraham, the father of the faithful. Iconic leader of the Jews. Listen to his 'faith + works'.

How did Abraham demonstrate that his faith was real, alive? 2:21-22; Gen.15:6; 22:9-12

When he offered Isaac on the altar. Faith + actions (deeds, works). Faith made complete!

What conclusion does James draw from Abraham? 2:23-24 see Gen.15:6

Abraham saved by faith alone, but years later his works (Isaac) proved his faith was real.

And what about Rahab? How does her actions flow from her faith? 2:25

She gave lodging to the spies and hid their departure. True faith demonstrated by works.

So what major point does James make again? 2:26

Just like physical death (body w/o spirit), so is spiritual death (faith w/o good works).

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