

Is Your Faith Working?

A Study of James

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“Real Faith”

James 2:14-26

“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ ... by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.” (Galatians 2:16 NKJV)

“You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” (James 2:24,26 NKJV)

Who’s right — Paul or James?

Paul

battling legalism
the root of salvation
how to know you’re a Christian
justification before God
how to believe like a Christian

James

battling laziness
the fruit of salvation
how to show you’re a Christian
justification before man
how to behave like a Christian

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works...” (Ephesians 2:8-10)

#1. Real faith is not just something you _____.

“What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?” (2:14 NKJV)

#2. Real faith is not just something you _____.

“Suppose you see a brother or sister who needs food or clothing, and you say, ‘Well, good-bye and God bless you; stay warm and eat well’ — but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?” (2:15-16 NTL)

“If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?” (1 John 3:17)

#3. Real faith is not just something you _____.

“Someone will say, ‘You have faith; I have deeds.’ Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.” (2:18)

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV)

#4. Real faith is not just something you _____.

“You believe that there is only one God. Good! Even the demons believe that — and shudder.” (2:19)

#5. Real faith is something you _____.

“When will you ever learn that faith that does not result in good deeds is useless? Don’t you remember that our ancestor Abraham was declared right with God because of what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see, he was trusting God so much that he was willing to do whatever God told him to do. His faith was made complete by what he did — by his actions. And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: ‘Abraham believed God, so God declared him to be righteous.’ He was even called ‘the friend of God.’ So you see, we are made right with God by what we do, not by faith alone. Rahab the prostitute is another example of this. She was made right with God by her actions — when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road.” (2:20-25 NTL)

“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Prove yourselves...” (2 Corinthians 13:5 NKJV)