

THE BOOK OF JAMES

FATHWORKS



James 2:14-26

A Faith Expressed

'What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 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? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

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. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 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. You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

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? As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.'

James 2:-14-26, NIV

Our relationship with Christ is transformative in that it seeps into every crevice of our being. While the bible does contain many commandments for the Christian to follow, this is not the point. The point of the Gospel is that we are saved and transformed by the power of God and guided towards a new way of living. The question is not what God says is best for us and for the good of humanity. The question is whether or not we truly believe it.

For many people, this passage seems like a contradiction to the idea of justification by faith. How would you respond to this understanding?

What kind of works is James using to deliver his point about faith being lived out? Why is this significant?

What does it mean if a person's faith is dead?

Why does James include the analogy of the demons? What is James attempting to describe in saying this?

What is the connection between belief and expression of those beliefs? How are the two connected?

What happens when you try to split what we believe and what we do? What does belief without works look like? What does works without belief look like?

What is the most challenging aspect of expressing your faith through your works? What doubts do you have? How does Jesus ease or speak to those doubts?

Daily Bible Reading Plan

Day One	James 2:14-26
Day Two	John 7
Day Three	Romans 7
Day Four	Psalm 7
Day Five	Exodus 7
Day Six	John 8
Day Seven	Romans 8

Prayer Requests