

FAITH THAT WORKS

AS WE WORK THROUGH THE EPISTLE OF JAMES, WE SEE THE MAIN POINT SO FAR HAS BEEN THE TESTING OF GENUINE FAITH IN CHRIST. THOSE WHO GENUINLY FOLLOW CHRIST HAVE BEEN BORN AGAIN, THEREFORE THE HEART HAS BEEN REGENERATED. THE OLD SELF-SERVING LIFE HAS NOW BECOME A LIFE LIVED TO SERVE GOD, IN THOUGHT, WORD, AND DEED. OBVIOUSLY, WE GROW IN OUR OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD. OVER TIME, WE GAIN MORE SPIRITUAL INSIGHT INTO GOD'S COMMANDS AND HIS PROMISES. THIS IS CALLED SANCTIFICATION. JAMES IS WRITING THIS LETTER SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE YEARS AD 44-49 TO THE EARLY CHURCH OF JEWISH CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE BEEN SCATTERED DUE TO PERSECUTION FROM KING HEROD. THIS LETTER FIRST CHALLENGES OUR FAITH IN CHAPTER 1 WITH HOW WE RESPOND TO TRIALS, DO WE TRUST GOD IN HARD TIMES? THEN JAMES MOVES TO HOW WE RESPOND TO TEMPTATION, DO WE FIGHT TEMPTATION AND SEEK GOD'S WAY? OR DO WE CAVE EVERYTIME WE GET TEMPTED AND DO WHAT COMES NATURAL. NEXT JAMES CHALLENGES THE CHURCH TO "DO" WHAT THE WORD SAYS TO DO, DON'T JUST LISTEN AND CARRY-ON AS IF YOU'VE HEARD NOTHING. LAST WEEK WE BEGAN CHAPTER 2 AND WE WERE CHALLENGED TO TREAT ALL PEOPLE WITH THE SAME RESPECT AND LOVE REGARDLESS OF THE WAY THEY LOOK. RICH OR POOR, THE GROUND IS LEVEL AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS. THIS WEEK IN THE SECOND HALF OF CHAPTER 2, JAMES DRAWS A HARD LINE IN THE SAND FOR ALL PROFESSING CHRISTIANS. HOW DO YOU PROVE TO YOURSELF AND OTHERS THAT YOUR FAITH IS GENUINE? IS THERE

EVIDENCE WE ACTUALLY PRODUCE? ARE WE REALLY WALKING IN TRUTH? LET'S FIND OUT

James 2:14 NIV

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?

WHAT GOOD IS SAYING "I'M A CHRISTIAN" IF YOUR LIFE DOES NOT LINE UP WITH THAT STATEMENT

JAMES IS MAKING A BOLD STATEMENT ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GENUINE SAVING FAITH AND AN EMPTY STATEMENT

FAITH/PISTIS/BELIEF, TRUST WITH AN IMPLICATION THAT ACTIONS BASED ON THAT TRUST WILL FOLLOW

USE EXAMPLE OF A CHAIR

JESUS IS VERY CLEAR ON THIS ISSUE OF GENUINE FAITH

Matthew 7:21 NIV

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

John 2:23-25 NIV

²³ Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. ²⁴ But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. ²⁵ He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.

SATAN BELIEVES IN THE POWER OF THE NAME OF JESUS

John 3:1-3 NIV

3 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

³ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BELIEVING THAT JESUS IS FROM GOD AND BELIEVING THAT HE IS GOD

James 2:15-17 NIV

¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ 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? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

MIDDLE VOICE/ GO AND WARM AND FILL YOURSELF
PASSIVE/LET SOMEONE OTHER THAN ME FILL AND WARM

James 2:18-19 NIV

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

THE JEWISH PEOPLE WERE RAISED BY A WORKS BASED FAITH THEN JESUS CAME AND FULLFILLED THE LAW WHICH BRINGS FREEDOM. OBVIOUSLY, THERE WERE SOME JEWS AND GENTILES WHO TOOK THIS FREEDOM FOR GRANTED

HOW DO YOU SHOW FAITH WITHOUT PROOF? YOU CAN'T

JAMES IS SAYING FAITH + NOTHING = NOTHING

IS HE CONTRADICTING PAUL THE APOSTLE? NO, HE ACTUALLY AGREES WITH PAUL'S STATEMENT TO THE CHURCH

Ephesians 2:8-10 NIV

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Romans 11:6 NIV

⁶ And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

Romans 2:6 NIV

⁶God “will repay each person according to what they have done.”

WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST ALONE
WHAT JAMES AND PAUL ARE SAYING IS THERE SHOULD BE
EVIDENCE OF OUR SALVATION. BEING BORN AGAIN IS A NEW
LIFE THAT IS DEDICATED TO PLEASING AND OBEYING GOD

James 2:20-21 NIV

²⁰You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? ²¹Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?

USELESS/ARGOS/IDLE, LAZY, INEFFECTIVE

Genesis 22:1-5, 7-8 NIV

¹ Sometime later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied.

² Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said

to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.”

⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?”

“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

“The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

⁸ Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

FAITH IN ACTION

James 2:22-24 NIV

²² You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³ 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. ²⁴ You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

WE ARE NOT WHAT WE SAY, WE ARE WHAT WE DO

James 2:25-26 NIV

²⁵ 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? ²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

RAHAB HEARD OF THE GREAT THINGS THE LORD HAD DONE FOR THE ISRAELITES AND BELIEVED, THEN SHE ACTED ON THOSE BELIEFS

WHEN THE SPIRIT LEAVES THE BODY, THE BODY IS DEAD
FAITH WITHOUT FRUIT IS DEAD FAITH

IF YOU DON'T LIVE IT, YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT

SOME FRUIT TO LOOK FOR IN YOUR WALK WITH CHRIST

1. REPENTANCE.
2. PRAYER.
3. OBEDIENCE.
4. HOLINESS
5. LOVE.
6. MERCY.
7. GRACE

WE ARE ALL IN PROCESS, BUT YOU MUST NOT BE DECIEVED

END