

**Series: "Marks Of Maturity"**  
**"Faith"**  
**James 2:14-26**  
**Study-5**

**Paul - Romans 3:28 justified by faith apart from works of the Law.**

**James - James 2:17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.**

**No Conflict! Paul - The Way of Justification:**

**James - The Life of The Justified: (If no fruit, the faith is not genuine, "Fake Faith!")**

**Works Are The Fruit Of Faith!**

**Paul - Works of Jewish Law, Works For Salvation**

**James - Works of Love, Fruit of Salvation:**

**Paul - Justified - Declared Righteous: James - Justified - Just Claim of Profession:**

**The Christian Walks By Faith: 2 Corinthians 5:7**

**Book of James (13 Marks Of Maturity)**

**Mark #5 "Faith"**

**Main Thesis of the book of James - "Faith" & "Works"**

**Ten times used in thirteen verses.**

**Thought Of Our Passage:** "Genuine Faith Involves Confirmation By The Heart, Confession By The Tongue, And Action By The Limbs."

**1. Verses 14-20 A Dead Faith:**

**2. Verses 21-26 A Living Faith:**

**1. Verses 14-20 A Dead Faith:**

**James 2:14 What use is it, my brethren,**

**Context - James left off James 2:1-13 speaking about Favoritism.**

**James 2:13 Oxymoron, Contradiction**

**What use is it, "*What good is it,*" my brethren,**

Christians, believers, saints, members of God's family (Genuine/Name?)

**If someone says "*what he claims,*" he has faith**

James anticipates a professing believer making an empty profession.

**What a person says/claims never replaces what a person does! James 1:22**

**James Illiterates Four Forms Of A False Faith:**

**1. Verse 14 A False Faith - Verbal Faith Does Not Save:**

**if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?**

**Wordy Faith - someone says ("Wordy Faith" "Say So Faith")**

**Matthew 7:21**

**People with dead faith substitute words for works.**

**but he has no works?** (*person's lifestyle, unchanged lifestyle*)

**Can that faith save him?** James is saying that this person is deceived.

Note - **"that" faith save him?** *"a fake non-action kind of faith"* **1 John 2:4**

**James is not saying that "Works are an added extra to faith, but an essential expression of faith." (Real Faith)**

**James speaks of our walk before man,  
Paul is speaking of our standing before God.**

**What Use Is It: Can that faith save him?  
(Rhetorical Question - Expected "NO!")**

**"True genuine faith involves confirmation by the heart, confession by the tongue, and action by the limbs."**

**2. Verses 15-16 False Faith - Does Not Serve:**

**James 2:15** illustration of what this dead faith is really like.

**brother or sister** (Believer's Brother or Sister) **is without clothing** (not naked), but shabby cloths, used of *"undergarments"*

**and in need of daily food**, *"no food for the day"*

**James 2:16 "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled."** Or *"Go I wish you well!"*  
*"keep warm and well fed!"* literally *"good-by, be at ease, good vibes!"*

**Noncharitable Faith: what use is that?** Food and clothing are basic needs

The words, **you do not give them**, that just talking does not do a thing.

**Matthew 25:40**

**1 John 3:17-18; Luke 10:30-37 Good Samaritan: Matthew 9:36**

**Not Inability, But Unwillingness:** Do we want to help others?

**3. Verses 17-18 A False Faith - Offers No Evidence Of Life:**

**James 2:17 faith, if it has no works, is dead,**

*James 2:17 (God's Word Translation)*

**being by itself.** (Alone) That true saving faith is not by itself;

A saving faith – it will produce change in our lives.

James says **three times James 2:17,20,26**

**Beware of Intellectual Faith: 2 Corinthians 5:17**

**James 2:18 show me your faith without the works,**  
How could you do that?  
**Ephesians 2:10**

**and I will show you my faith by my works."**  
Faith is something that will be seen.

**4. Verse - 19 A False Faith - Is A Demonic Faith:**  
**James 2:19 You believe that God is one. ("There is One God")**  
This is the orthodox teaching of Scripture

**Deuteronomy 6:4 the LORD is one!**  
**Monotheistic** - There is only one true God.

**You do well;** I believe in One God, good! That is good to be orthodox.

**the demons also believe,**  
This shocks some people to hear that the demons have doctrinal belief. **Mark 5:6-7**

**and shudder.**

*"Tremble,"*

The man with a dead faith was touched in his intellect, but the demons were touched in the emotions. They believe and tremble.

**James 2:20 But are you willing to recognize,**  
*"Are you willing to be taught?"*

**you foolish fellow** *"Oh empty head" you knucklehead, airhead!*

**that faith without works is useless? (Dead)** Literally - *"barren or idle"*  
**Real Faith Involves The Mind** - The person needs to understand the truth.  
**Real Faith Involves The Heart** - The heart desires, stirred by the truth.  
**Real Faith Involves The Will** - The will acts upon the truth.

## **2. Verses 21-26 A Living Faith:**

**James 2:21 Genesis 22**

This took place many years after believing/faith in God.

**Verses 21-24 Obedience Of Abraham:**

**Was not Abraham our father justified by works**  
**(Romans 4) "faith at work" vindicated**

His works proved that he had faith in God.

**Paul Focuses On The Basis of Abraham's Faith - James Focuses On The Effects Of Abraham's Faith**

**when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?**

**Genesis 22:10-13 "Faith and works are inseparable."**

This is 25 years after he already believed. **Genesis 15:6**

**Titus 3:8**

**James 2:22 perfected;**

*"By these actions the integrity of his faith was fully proven."*

**James 2:23 (Genesis 18:17-19; Isaiah 41:8)**

**Genesis 15:5-6 RECKONED** (counted) legal or financial *"to put to one's account."*

**Justification** - *"is the act by which God declares the believing sinner righteous on the basis of Christ's finished work on the cross."*

**James 2:24 justified**

Used in one of two different ways:

(1) to declare righteous

(2) to demonstrate as righteous. James uses it to demonstrate as righteous.

**Verse 25 Obedience Of Rahab: was not Rahab the harlot (Joshua 2:6)**

Israel was preparing to conquer the promised land and take Jericho.

**Joshua 2:1-24** Joshua sent 12 spies to spy out the land.

**justified by works, when she received the messengers, Joshua 2:11**

Bloodline of Jesus **Matthew 1:5**

**and sent them out by another way?**

She would be spared when the judgment came

Rahab's response was with Her Mind she understood - Her **Emotions** she trembled but also responded with Her Will by doing something about it. **Hebrews 11:31**

**the harlot** - She was an immoral person, but God received her and not only forgave her, but she is grafted into the genealogy of Jesus Christ. (**Matthew 1:5**)

**Verse – 26 Example Of A Dead Body:**

**James 2:26 the body without the spirit is dead**

This is the definition of physical death.

**so also faith without works is dead.**

This is the definition of spiritual death.

**Application:** Marks Of Maturity: Do We Have A Faith That Works?

1. What Kind Of Faith Really Saves A Person?

***One That Is Intellectual, Of The Heart, And Involves The Will:***

2. Is It Necessary To Perform Good Works In Order To Be Saved?

***No! But If We Are Saved, We Will Work:***

3. How Can We Know That We Are Exercising True Saving Faith?

***We Believe, Repent, And We Will Change:***