

James 2:14-26 **Faith Without Works Is Dead**

(cf. Gen 22; Josh 2:1)

Faith to be confirmed is demonstrated by actions

14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe — and tremble! 20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

Abraham's faith was demonstrated by his obedient actions

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

Rahab's faith was demonstrated by her actions

25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?

Conclusion

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Faith to be confirmed is demonstrated by actions [James 2:14-20]

- ✚ James demonstrates that Saving Faith requires more than just lip service.
 - ✧ If a person claims to believe but has no evidence of his belief in his life, his claim is empty.
 - ✧ Jesus demonstrated that love of God and love of Jesus requires the evidence of obedience to His teachings. [Matthew 7:24-27, 28:20, John 14:12, 15-18, 21-24]
 - ✧ The question is, "Can faith save him?" [James 2:14]
 - ✧ Many teach we are saved by Grace alone through Faith alone. [Acts 15:6-11, Ephesians 2:4-10, 2 Timothy 1:8-9]
 - ✧ Peter and Paul who preached those Scriptures both encouraged the believers throughout their epistles to demonstrate their faith by obedient actions. [Ephesians 2:10, Philippians 2:13, Colossians 1:9-10, 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17, 1 Timothy 5:9-10, 6:17-19, 2 Timothy 2:21, 3:16-17, Titus 1:16, 2:7, 14, 3:1, 8, 14, Hebrews 10:24, 13:20-21, 1 Peter 2:11-12] and many, many more.
 - ✧ James does not ask for anything not taught by Jesus regarding putting your faith to work in service to God and your fellow man.
 - ✧ His illustrations:
 - 'If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?' [James 2:15-16]

✧ His conclusion:

"Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." [James 2:17]

✧ In refuting the doctrine by grace alone through faith alone, James offers this comparison: But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. [James 2:18]

You believe that there is one God. You do well. **Even the demons believe — and tremble!** [James 2:19]

But do you want to know, O foolish man, that **faith without works is dead?**
[James 2:20]

Abraham's faith was demonstrated by his obedient actions [James 2:21-24]

✧ Using Israel history, James cited examples of faith in action demonstrated by works.

Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? [James 2:21, Genesis 22:1-19]

✧ Faith was made perfect because it was coupled together with obedient works.

✧ Abraham demonstrated that he believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness.

✧ The writer of Hebrews, using the same example, made the same connection, showing that the works of Abraham were coupled with his faith. [Hebrews 11:17-19]

✧ Abraham was called the friend of God. [2 Chronicles 20:7]

✧ You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. [James 2:24]

✧ Rahab the harlot was also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way. [James 2:25, Hebrews 11:31, Joshua 2:1-24, 6:17, 22-25]

✧ Rahab was in the line of David of whom Jesus was a descendant. [Ruth 4:21-22, Matthew 1:5-6]

Conclusion

✧ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. [James 2:26]