

## A Practical Study of JAMES: The Battle of Our Behavior

### SESSION #5: James 2:14-26

#### "Faith is Dead Without Deeds"

Key Verse:

*v.26 For just as the body without breath is dead, so also faith without works is dead.*

Memory Verse: James 2:26

#### TEXT:

v.14 What good does it do, my brethren, if a person is saying: "I am having faith" and he is not having works? That faith is not able to save him, is it?

v.15 If a brother or a sister be poorly dressed, and in need of daily food,

v.16 and one of you says to them "Be going in peace, dress warmly (keep warm), and feed yourselves; and you do not give them the things needful for the body, what good does it do?

v.17 So also faith, if it is not having works, it is dead by itself.

v.18 But a man will say: "You are having faith and I am having works. Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

v.19 You are believing that God is one; you are doing well. The demons also are believing and shuddering.

v.20 But are you wishing to know, oh senseless man, that faith without deeds is useless?

v.21 Was not our father, Abraham, vindicated by works in that he offered up his son Isaac upon the altar?

v.22 You are seeing that faith was working with his good deeds, and faith was perfected in good deeds.

v.23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which said: "And Abraham believed God, and it was credited to his account for righteousness," and he was called a friend of God.

v.24 You are seeing that a man by works is shown to be righteous and not by faith alone.

v.25 Now in like manner was not Rahab the prostitute vindicated by works in that she entertained as guests the messengers and sent them out another way?

v.26 For just as the body without breath is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

## Introduction:

Jesus says in:

\* Matthew 7:20

"Wherefore by their fruits, you shall know them."

\* James is very adamant at this point that saving faith will produce fruit that will be consistent with that faith.

①

**TEST**

Sovereignly designed for spiritual growth.  
Say Yes! Bring it on!

②

**TEMPTATION**

Satanically designed to derail us.  
Say No! I'm out of here!

③

**INTAKE and IMPLEMENT the word.**

The **COMMAND** has been made in:

\* James 1:22

You wake up hungry For A word From  
The word.

to keep on becoming doers of the Word and not hearers only.

④

Your Love is unconditional + without Partiality

What James is teaching here is that **VITAL FAITH** will show itself in our **CHARACTER**.

James is concerned that there will be a union between our **CREED** and our **CONDUCT**—between our **LIFE** and our **LIPS**.



v.14 What good does it do, my brethren, if a person is saying: "I am having faith" and he is not having works? That faith is not able to save him, is it?

James here raises **TWO QUESTIONS** to begin the development of his argument:

1. "WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO, MY BRETHREN, IF A PERSON IS SAYING: 'I AM HAVING FAITH' AND HE IS NOT HAVING WORKS?"

2. "THAT FAITH IS NOT ABLE TO SAVE HIM, IS IT?"

Channel of love <sup>without</sup> partiality.

Faith will issue in fruit.

Pray AT The western wall  
Private Meeting with Billy Graham  
Audience with The Pope  
All done with A heart + Mouth Filled with  
Venom + Hatred.  
Skunk in the woodpile!

Here is a man who is saying with his lips that he is having faith, but his life is not producing any works that would show that he really knows Christ as Saviour.

James then concludes with this **QUESTION**:

#2

2. "THAT FAITH IS NOT ABLE TO SAVE HIM, IS IT?"

Paul says the same thing in:

\* Titus 1:16

Such persons claim they know God, but from seeing the way they act one knows they don't. They are rotten and disobedient, worthless so far as doing anything good is concerned.

Likewise, we read in:

Titus 3:8

These things I have told you are all true. Insist on them so that Christians will be careful to do good deeds all the time. For this is not only right, but it brings results.

### CAIN AND ABEL

As long as you are still concerned about works, you probably have not really exercised saving faith . . .

For a person to say that "HE IS HAVING FAITH" and there is not evidence of it in his life is like:

an APPLE TREE without apples or

a CLOCK that does not tell time or

a CAR without wheels.

Someone has wisely said that Christianity flows:

from the HEAD

to the HEART

to the HAND.

2 Corinthians 13:5

Check up on yourselves. Are you really Christians? Do you pass the test? Do you feel Christ's presence and power more and more within you? Or, are you just pretending to be Christians when actually God has rejected you.

"Let all who hold this faith and hope in holy deeds abound, thus faith approves itself sincere by active virtue crown'd."

v.15 If a brother or a sister be poorly dressed, and in need of daily food.

James is going to give us an **ILLUSTRATION** of what he means now that he has raised the **TWO QUESTIONS** in verse 14.

Here is a **FELLOW CHRISTIAN**—a brother or sister in the Lord—who has need of clothing and food.



v.16 and one of you says to them "Be going in peace, dress warmly (keep warm), and feed yourselves; and you do not give them the things needful for the body, what good does it do?"

In our last study, James was speaking about feeling compassion for the UNLOVELY.

In this study he is speaking about feeling compassion for the NEEDY.

1 John 3:17-19

But if someone, who is supposed to be a Christian, has money to live well and see his brother in need, and won't help him, how can God's love be within him? Little children, let us stop just saying we love people, let us really love them and show it by our actions. Then we will know for sure, by our actions, that we are on God's side and our consciences will be clear, even when we stand before the Lord.

Romans 5:5

Then when that happens, we will be able to hold our heads high, no matter what happens, and know that all is well for we will know how dearly God loves us and we will feel this warm love everywhere within us because God has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love.

Without love, compassion, and works, we are hearers and not doers. !!!

What James is saying is that if we have REAL FAITH IN CHRIST, we are going to have LOVE and COMPASSION for our fellow Christians in need.

F. B. Meyer points out:

When there is faith in the Lord Jesus, there will always be love towards all the saints because faith is the facility of taking God into the heart. Faith is God's receptiveness. Faith appropriates the nature of God just as the expanded lung does the mountain air, or the child does the parent's gift. Faith like a narrow channel, conveys God's ocean fullness into the lagoons of human needs. Wherever, therefore, faith links the believer to the Lord Jesus, His nature which is love, pure as mountain dew, begins to flow into the waiting, expectant heart and then to flow out thence towards all the saints. Love of God knows no favorite sect, it singles out no special school, but as the sun and wind of nature breathes and shines alike on all, it is cosmopolitan and universal. You cannot imprison it within the walls of any one Christian community. It laughs at your restrictions and with equal grace raises up witnesses and standard bearers from all parts of the church. Thus as we become more like God, our love overleaps the barrier of our little pond and passes out to greet all saints and to expend itself on the great world of men.

Your rice bowl is empty little brother,  
your hands are blue from the cold,  
your face, it's a map of terror and pain,  
old as mankind is old.

Men launch their miracles, little brother,  
they send their rockets up,  
but should it not be their first concern  
to fill your empty cup.

Men go to reach the moon, little brother,  
to lasso outer space,  
but would they not come closer to God  
if they wiped the pain off your face.



v.17 So also faith, if it is not having works, it is dead by itself.

James draws the **CONCLUSION** here:

THIS PIOUS PRETENSE IS DEAD BY ITSELF.

Living faith is faith like that of the Thessalonians in:

1 Thessalonians 1:3

We never forget your loving deeds as we talk to our God and Father about you and your strong faith and steady looking forward to the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Nieboer points out:

Even as professed sympathy did not help the poor sufferer of our last few verses, even so a professed faith, that produces no good works, will be a profitless dead thing.

Intellectual faith that has not affected the way we live.

v.18 But a man will say: "You are having faith and I am having works. Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

James treats this problem in **TWO DIFFERENT CYCLES.**

We notice in **verse 14** that he says:

"if a person is saying."

He then **ILLUSTRATES IT** and has a **CONCLUDING STATEMENT** in **verse 17:**

"so also faith, if it is not having works, it is dead by itself."

Now in **verse 18** he will also begin with:

"A MAN WILL SAY: 'YOU ARE HAVING FAITH . . .'"

He will then be giving us **TWO ILLUSTRATIONS** which are found in **verse 26:**

**Faith** "FOR JUST AS THE BODY WITHOUT BREATH IS DEAD, SO ALSO WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD."

**Evidences of SAVING FAITH:**

1. **TEST,** Submitting
2. **TEMPT,** Resisting
3. **INTAKE OF WORD,** Hunger daily
4. **LOVE,** and without Partiality
5. **FRUIT.** Flowing From my life will be evidences that I am His Child.

It would be well for us to state once again that:

James is not discussing WORKS here as a MEANS OF SALVATION, but rather works which are in evidence as a PROOF OF FAITH.

How is it that we can see faith anyway?

The Lord Jesus tells us in:

John 15:16

You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit and that your fruit should remain that whatsoever you shall ask of the Father, in My Name, He may give you.

It is by fruitage in our lives that faith can be seen. !!!

Hebrews 11 is filled with illustrations of great men and women showing their faith by the things they did:

1. ABEL obeyed God and brought an offering that pleased God.
2. NOAH believed God and built the ark.
3. ABRAHAM believed God and went to a far country.
4. MOSES believed God and left the land of Egypt.
5. RAHAB believed God and welcomed spies.



v.19 You are believing that God is one; you are doing well. The demons also are believing and shuddering.

UNBELIEF always LOSES.

Real

FAITH always WINS.

James is saying that your creed might be the belief that God is One and if this is the case, you are doing well but the DEMONS are also 100% along this line in believing that God is One and they are shuddering—recognizing the fact of their impending doom.

Playing for a loser . . .

James, at least, commends this belief but his plea is that this is not adequate, but that this faith won't manifest itself in the life.

*Saving Faith*

*ONLY in The head !!!  
has Not reached The heart  
or The hand*

v.20 But are you wishing to know, oh senseless man, that faith without deeds is useless?

Dr. Ryrie in his book *Balancing the Christian Life* says:

In his conduct, the spiritual believer will imitate Christ. One of the wrong emphasis in victorious life teachings today demands this aspect of the truth. We are told not to imitate Christ, since this involves striving, which is a work of the flesh, rather we should simply allow Christ to live out His life through us. Actually, it is not necessary to choose one of these views; both are scriptural. Christ lives in me and the life I now live, I live by faith in the Son of God. But I am also exhorted to follow His steps and to walk as He walked. Obviously, if the Holy Spirit is allowed to produce the character of Christ in an individual, the life that he lives will imitate Christ.

*Gal. 2:20*

Flowing from my life will be evidences that I am His child.

Ill of Children like parent.

James' whole thought in this epistle is that if we are progressing towards MATURITY, there are going to be MANIFESTATIONS OF THE SPIRIT'S WORK in the kind of lives that we are living.

James will now use TWO ILLUSTRATIONS to stress his point before making the FINAL CONCLUSION.

v.21 Was not our father, Abraham, vindicated by works in that he offered up his son Isaac upon the altar?

Paul uses:

Rom. 4:20, 21

ABRAHAM for FAITH and

JAMES for WORKS.

James makes reference here to an experience in the life of ABRAHAM when his faith is being tested.

His faith being tested is proven to be real by the fact that he is willing to even offer up his son ISAAC through whom the promised seed is going to come.

Gen. 22:1 "Some time later, God tested Abraham."

Surrenders to God's Authority  
His slightest wish is my Supreme  
Command!!



v.22 You are seeing that faith was working with his good deeds, and faith was perfected in good deeds.

Here James now draws his SUMMARY from the ILLUSTRATION:

"FAITH WAS WORKING WITH HIS GOOD DEED" and

"FAITH WAS PERFECTED IN HIS GOOD DEEDS."

It certainly took faith for Abraham to be obedient to God at this point and his faith was perfected in that which he did.

Instant obedience is A Manifestation of Saving Faith.  
Trusting God to work it out!!

v.23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which said: "And Abraham believed God, and it was credited to his account for righteousness." and he was called a friend of God.

Here James quotes from **THREE SEPARATE PASSAGES** of Scripture:

Genesis 15:6

Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

2 Chronicles 20:7

O our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?

Isaiah 41:8

"But you, O Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, you descendants of Abraham my friend,

v.24 You are seeing that a man by works is shown to be righteous and not by faith alone.

This is the CONCLUSION of his ARGUMENT with regard to ABRAHAM.

Now in verse 25 he will use the SECOND ILLUSTRATION of RAHAB.



v.25 Now in like manner was not Rahab the prostitute vindicated by works in that she entertained as guests the messengers and sent them out another way?

Whereas ABRAHAM was the FRIEND OF GOD and honored very, very highly, RAHAB is on the other extreme—an OUTCAST PROSTITUTE. But in God's sight they proved their faith by that which they were willing to do:

1. ABRAHAM by offering his son Isaac and
2. RAHAB by entertaining the guests who were spies in the land and then by protecting them by sending them out another way.

Barrett says:

The other one is Rahab, a Gentile, a woman prostitute, a nobody. Rahab hid two Israelite spies and sneaked them out of town to safety by letting them down the wall from her window. Rahab's faith had already been declared when she first let these spies into her house and declared to them "I know that the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on earth beneath." Smuggling them out and saving their lives was a result of that faith.

v.26 For just as the body without breath is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

This verse is the **KEY VERSE** in our **FIFTH POINTER FOR PROGRESS:**

**FAITH IS DEAD WITHOUT DEEDS.**

We have been noting together that James is deeply concerned for his readers to:

go on to a **MATURE STAND** in Christ,

be **FULLY DEVELOPED**, and

**COMPLETE**—lacking in nothing.

He is dealing with several practical areas that will be helpful to them as far as growing is concerned.

Barrett says again:

But now that you have accepted our Lord by faith and stepped from darkness into light, now that you are here, the ground rules are different. To take this step, and then do nothing, makes about as much sense as whamming a ball over the back fence for a homer and then just standing there on home plate. Now that you are a Christian, Paul has a few things to say too and he doesn't mince words. It is to God, alone, we have to answer for our actions, he says in Romans 14:12. For everyone of us will have to stand without pretense before Christ our judge, he says in II Corinthians 5:10. We shall be rewarded for what we did when we lived in our bodies, whether it was good or bad. In Ephesians 2:9-10 he tells us "No one can pride himself upon earning the love of God. The fact is, that what we are, we owe it to the hand of God upon us. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, to do those good deeds which God planned for us to do."



It is by the movements of the body that we are able to discern the presence of life and so it is spiritually that by the works of the Christian are we able to discern the presence of faith.

Some years ago my son, Bobby, built an incubator and in it a good number of eggs were placed. It was fun to count the days and wait expectantly for the arrival of our first chick. I cannot express the thrill of the children with the cracking of the first egg and the movement of the membrane. This movement let us know that life was in the shell.

So it is, James says, that faith will manifest itself in works and as the body without breath is dead so also faith without works is dead.

#### Ephesians 2:4-7

But God is so rich in mercy. He loved us so much that even though we were spiritually dead and doomed by our sins, He gave us back our lives again when He raised Christ from the dead. Only by His undeserved favor have we ever been saved. And lifted us up from the grave into glory along with Christ where we'd sit with Him in the heavenly realms all because of what Christ Jesus did and now God can always point to us as examples of how very, very rich His kindness is as shown in all he has done for us through Jesus Christ.

Breathe on me, breath of God  
Fill me with life anew  
that I may love with doubtless love  
and do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, breath of God  
until my heart is pure.  
Until with Thee I will  
one will to do and to endure

Breathe on me, breath of God  
til I am wholly Thine.  
Until this earthly part of me  
glows with Thy fire divine.



Are you making progress? Are you growing?

1. Submitting to tests
2. Resisting temptation
3. Partaking and implementing the Word
4. Manifesting love without partiality
5. Fruit from your faith

**CONCLUSION:**

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: It is possible to believe and not be a Christian.

LESSON #2: Living faith will reveal itself in Spirit produced fruit.

LESSON #3: The divine equation is Faith + Food = Fruit.

LESSON #4: Faith will reveal itself by being constructively involved in the lives of others.

LESSON #5: As long as you are concerned about doing enough, you probably have not exercised saving faith.



## ILLUSTRATION

**Coach's Wife Chooses Missions over Super Bowl**

Send to printer

**Topics:** Celebrities; Commitment; Good works; Medical care; Ministry; Missions; Passion, motivational; Planning; Priorities; Sacrifice; Service; Sports

**Filters:** Everyday Disciples, Famous People, International, Pop Culture, Sports, Stories

**References:** Matthew 6:19-20 , Luke 9:23-26 , Luke 12:33

**Tone:** Commend

The Super Bowl is one of the most anticipated events in America each year. With the championship of the NFL on the line, entertaining commercials, and a spectacular halftime show, an estimated 190 million people watched the game in 2006. And one would assume the wife of one of the head coaches in the game would be one of those 190 million.

But Kathy Holmgren, the wife of Seattle Seahawks head coach Mike Holmgren, decided to skip Super Bowl XL, and Detroit, for something she considered more important—a faith-based humanitarian trip to Africa.

Kathy Holmgren and her daughter, Calla, left three days before the big game on a 17-day medical training mission with Northwest Medical Teams—a relief group based in Portland, Oregon—to the northwest region of the Democratic Republic of Congo. A nurse and obstetrician, respectively, the two joined six other physicians with experience as missionaries.

During the three days it took to reach the region, the medical team traveled over marginal roads that narrowed to near non-existence, waded through streams, and crossed rough-hewn and often improvised bridges.

While much of the world tuned in to the Super Bowl, the team was working with the staff of a hospital operated by the Evangelical Covenant Church, the denomination the Holmgrens belong to.

The hospital is the only medical facility for 300,000 people in the region, and the staff is often forced to use rudimentary equipment when treating 2,500 patients a month. More than 3.9 million Congolese have died since 1998, most from preventable disease, according to the British medical journal *The Lancet*.

Kathy Holmgren spent 10 months in the region during 1970, but gave up her dream of being a Covenant medical missionary to marry. Last October, Mike Holmgren's birthday present to his wife was the trip back to the country she loves.

The family did not consider the two women might miss the Super Bowl.

"I don't think we paid much attention to the date," Kathy said. "As the possibility of our being in the game became a reality, we decided to continue with our plans. The actual game makes me so nervous, so I don't watch anyway, and we feel like this trip is important."

**Video:** Holmgren Women Go to the Congo

*Religion News Service beliefnet.com; submitted by Hugh Poland, Kingwood, Texas*



*"And she did eat, and was sufficed, and left."*—Ruth ii. 14.

**W**Henever we are privileged to eat of the bread which Jesus gives, we are, like Ruth, satisfied with the full and sweet repast. When Jesus is the host no guest goes empty from the table. Our *head* is satisfied with the precious truth which Christ reveals; our *heart* is content with Jesus, as the altogether lovely object of affection; our *hope* is satisfied, for whom have we in heaven but Jesus? and our *desire* is satiated, for what can we wish for more than "to know Christ and to be found in Him"? Jesus fills our *conscience* till it is at perfect peace; our *judgment* with persuasion of the certainty of His teachings; our *memory* with recollections of what He has done, and our *imagination* with the prospects of what He is yet to do. As Ruth was "sufficed, and left," so is it with us. We have had deep draughts; we have thought that we could take in all of Christ; but when we have done our best we have had to leave a vast remainder. We have sat at the table of the Lord's love, and said, "Nothing but the infinite can ever satisfy me; I am such a great sinner that I must have infinite merit to wash my sin away;" but we have had our sin removed, and found that there was merit to spare; we have had our hunger relieved at the feast of sacred love, and found that there was a redundancy of spiritual meat remaining. There are certain sweet things in the Word of God which we have not enjoyed yet, and which we are obliged to leave for awhile; for we are like the disciples to whom Jesus said, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." Yes, there are graces to which we have not attained; places of fellowship nearer to Christ which we have not reached; and heights of communion which our feet have not climbed. At every banquet of love there are many baskets of fragments left. Let us magnify the liberality of our glorious Boaz.

#42



Trail West  
in  
July - 3 months Ago!!

## STUDY # FIVE

FAITH IS DEAD WITHOUT DEEDS 2:14-26

KEY VERSE: 2:26 For just as the body without breath is dead,  
so also faith without works is dead.

MEMORY VERSE: 2:26

TEXT: 2:14-26

What good does it do my brethren if a person is saying "I am having faith" and he is not having works? That faith is not able to save him, is it? If a brother or a sister be poorly dressed and in need of daily food and one of you says to them "Be going in peace, dress warmly [keep warm], and feed yourselves, and you do not give them the things needful for the body, what good does it do? So also faith, if it is not having works, it is dead by itself. But a man will say, "You are having faith and I am having works. Show me your faith without your works and I will show you my faith by my works." You are believing that God is one; you are doing well. The demons also are believing and are shuddering. But are you wishing to know, o! senseless man, that faith without deeds is useless. Was not our father, Abraham, vindicated by works in that he offered up his son Issac upon the altar? You are seeing that faith was working with his good deeds and faith was perfected in good deeds. And the scripture was fulfilled which said "And Abraham believed God and it was credited to his account for righteousness and he was called a friend of God." You are seeing that a man by works is shown to be righteous and not be faith alone. Now in like manner was not Rahab the prostitute vindicated by works in that she entertained as guests the messengers and sent them out another way? For just as the body without breath is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

EXPOSITION: Jesus says in Matthew 7:20 "Wherefore by their fruits, you shall know them." James is very adamant at this point that saving faith will produce fruit that will be consistent with that faith. The command has been made in 1:22 "to keep on becoming doers of the Word and not hearers only."

1. What James is teaching here is that vital faith will show itself in our character. James is concerned that there will be a union between our creed and our conduct, between our life and our lips.

Verse Fourteen: What good does it do my brethren if a person is saying "I am having faith" and he is not having works? That faith is not able to save him, is it?

1. James here raises two questions to begin the development of his argument.

2. Here is a man who is saying with his lips that he is having faith, but his life is not producing any works that would show that he really knows Christ as Saviour. James then concludes with this question, "That faith is not able to save him, is it?"

3. Paul says the same thing in Titus 1:16 "Such persons claim they know God, but from seeing the way they act one knows they don't. They are rotten and disobedient, worthless so far as doing anything good is concerned." Likewise, in 3:8 "These things I have told you are all true. Insist on them so that Christians will be careful to do good deeds all the time. For this is not only right, but it brings results."

As long As You Are Still Concerned About Works You Probably  
have Not really exercised Saving Faith . . .

Test  
Temptation  
intake &  
implement  
the Word

Channel of  
Love without  
Partiality

Faith will  
Issue in Fruit

Cain + Abel



Self-Right  
X - Right

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4. For a person to say that he is having faith and there is no evidence of it in his life is like an apple tree without apples or a clock that does not tell time or a car without wheels.

5. Someone has wisely said that Christianity flows from the head to the heart to the hand.

6. II Corinthians 13:5 "Check up on yourselves. Are you really Christians? Do you pass the test? Do you feel Christ's presence and power more and more within you? Or, are you just pretending to be Christians when actually God has rejected you."

7. "Let all who hold this faith and hope in holy deeds abound, thus faith approves itself sincere by active virtue crown'd."

Verse Fifteen: If a brother or a sister be poorly dressed and in need of daily food

1. James is going to give us an illustration of what he means now that he has raised the two questions in verse 14.

2. Here is a fellow Christian, a brother or a sister in the Lord, who has need of clothing and food.

Verse Sixteen: And one of you says to them "Be going in peace, dress warmly [keep warm], and feed yourselves, and you do not give them the things needful for the body, what good does it do?"

1. In our last study James was speaking about feeling compassion for the unlovely and in this study he is speaking about feeling compassion for the needy.

2. I John 3:17-19 "But if someone, who is supposed to be a Christian, has money to live well and see his brother in need, and won't help him, how can God's love be within him? Little children, let us stop just saying we love people, let us really love them and show it by our actions. Then we will know for sure, by our actions, that we are on God's side and our consciences will be clear, even when we stand before the Lord."

3. Romans 5:5 "Then when that happens, we will be able to hold our heads high, no matter what happens, and know that all is well for we will know how dearly God loves us and we will feel this warm love everywhere within us because God has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love."

4. What James is saying is that if we have real faith in Christ, we are going to have love and compassion for our fellow Christians in need.

5. F. B. Meyer points out that when there is faith in the Lord Jesus, there will always be love towards all the saints because faith is the facility of taking God into the heart. Faith is God receptiveness. Faith appropriates the nature of God just as the expanded lung does the mountain air or the child does the parent's gift. Faith, like a narrow channel, conveys God's ocean fulness into the lagoons of human needs. Wherever, therefore, faith links the believer to the Lord Jesus, His nature which is love, pure as mountain dew, begins to flow into the waiting, expectant heart and then to flow out thence towards all the saints. Love of God knows no favorite sect, it singles out no special school, but as the sun and wind of nature breathe and shines alike on all, it is cosmopolitan and universal. You cannot imprison it within the walls of any one Christian community. It laughs at your restrictions and with equal grace raises up witnesses and standard bearers from all parts of the church. Thus as we become more like God, our love overleaps

Intellect  
↓  
Will  
↓  
Emotions

No  
Compassion

Without love  
+ Compassion  
+ works we  
are hearers  
+ Not doers.

Ihh. of  
Good Sam.  
My Neighbor  
As myself.



the barrier of our little pond and passes out to greet all saints and to expend itself on the great world of men.

6. "Your rice bowl is empty little brother, your hands are blue from the cold, your face, its a map of terror and pain, old as mankind is old. Men launch their miracles, little brother, they send their rockets up, but should it not be their first concern to fill your empty cup. Men ~~try~~ to reach the moon, little brother, to lasso outer space, but would they not come closer to God if they wiped the pain from off your face."

Verse Seventeen: So also faith, if it is not having works, it is dead by itself.

1. James draws a conclusion here then: "this pious pretense is dead by itself."

2. Living faith is faith like that of the Thessalonians in 1 Thessalonians 1:3 "We never forget your loving deeds as we talk to our God and Father about you and your strong faith and steady looking forward to the return of our Lord Jesus Christ."

3. Nieboer points out that even as professed sympathy did not help the poor sufferer of our last few verses, even so a professed faith, that produces no good works, will be a profitless dead thing.

Verse Eighteen: But a man will say, "You are having faith and I am having works. Show me your faith without your works and I will show you my faith by my works."

1. James treats this problem in two different cycles. We notice in verse 14 that he says "if a person is saying" and then illustrates it and has a concluding statement in verse 17 "so also faith, if it is not having works, it is dead by itself. Now in verse 18 he will also begin with "a man will say, 'you are having faith' and then he will be giving us two illustrations and then will be concluding the argument with the key verse which is verse 26 "For just as the body without breath is dead, so also faith without works is dead."

2. It would be well for us to state once again that James is not discussing works here as a means of salvation but rather works which are in evidence as a proof of faith.

3. How is it that we can see faith anyway. The Lord Jesus tells us in John 15:16 "You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit and that your fruit should remain that whatsoever you shall ask of the Father, in My Name, He may give you." It is by fruitage in our lives that faith can be seen.

4. Hebrews 11 is filled with illustrations of great men and women showing their faith by the things they did. Abel obeyed God and brought an offering that pleased God. Noah believed God and built the ark. Abraham believed God and went to a far country. Moses believed God and left the land of Egypt. Rahab believed God and welcomed the spies.

Verse Nineteen: You are believing that God is one; you are doing well. The demons also are believing and are shuddering.

Intellectual  
Faith that has  
Not effected  
The way we live

Evidences of  
Saving Faith:

- 1 Test
- 2 Tempt
- 3 Intake of word
- 4 Pardonability
- 5 Fruit



Unbelief Always loses.  
Faith " Wins.

1. James is saying that your creed might be the belief that God is one and if this is the case, you are doing well but the demons are also 100% along this line in believing that God is one and they are shuddering, recognizing the fact of their impending doom.

Playing for a loser...

2. James, at least, commends this belief but his plea is that this is not adequate, but that this ~~saving~~ faith won't manifest itself in the life.

Verse Twenty: But are you wishing to know, O! senseless man, that faith without deeds is useless.

1. Dr. Rylie, in his book *Balancing the Christian Life*, says "In his conduct, the spiritual believer will imitate Christ. One of the wrong emphasis in victorious life teachings today de-means this aspect of the truth. We are told not to imitate Christ, since this involves striving, which is a work of the flesh, rather we should simply allow Christ to live out His life through us. Actually, it is not necessary to choose one of these views; both are scriptural. Christ lives in me and the life I now live, I live by faith in the Son of God. But I am also exhorted to follow His steps and to walk as He walked. Obviously, if the Holy Spirit is allowed to produce the character of Christ in an individual, the life that he lives will imitate Christ."

2. James whole thought in this epistle is that if we are progressing towards maturity, there are going to be manifestations of the Spirit's work in the kind of lives that we are living.

3. James will now use two illustrations to stress his point before making the final conclusion.

Verse Twenty-One: Was not our father, Abraham, vindicated by works in that he offered up his son Issac upon the altar?

1. James makes reference here to an experience in the life of Abraham when his faith is being tested. His faith being tested is proven to be real by the fact that he is willing to even offer up his son Issac through whom the promised seed is going to come.

Verse Twenty-Two: You are seeing that faith was working with his good deeds and faith was perfected in good deeds.

1. Here James now draws his summary from the illustration. Faith was working with his good deed. Faith was perfected in his good deeds. It certainly took faith for Abraham to be obedient to God at this point and his faith was perfected in that which he did.

Verse Twenty-Three: And the scripture was fulfilled which said "And Abraham believed God and it was credited to his account for righteousness and he was called a friend of God."

1. Here James quotes from three separate passages of scripture-- Genesis 15:6; II Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8.

Verse Twenty-Four: You are seeing that a man by works is shown to be righteous and not by faith alone.

1. This is the conclusion of his argument with regard to Abraham and now in verse 25 he will use the second illustration of Rahab

Flowing from my life will be evidences that I am His child.

All of children like parents

Paul uses Abraham for Faith & James works...



**\*\* Verse Twenty-Five:** Now in like manner was not Rahab the prostitute vindicated by works in that she entertained as guests the messengers and sent them out another way?

- Brotherhood  
+ women  
Abraham  
+ Rahab*
1. Whereas Abraham was the friend of God and honored very, very highly, Rahab is on the other extreme--an outcast prostitute. But in God's sight they proved their faith by that which they were willing to do. First Abraham to offer his son Issac and Rahab by entertaining the guests who were spies in the land and then protecting them by sending them out another way.
  2. Barrett says "The other one is Rahab, a Gentile, a woman prostitute, a nobody. Rahab hid two Israelite spies and sneaked them out of town to safety by letting them down the wall from her window. Rahab's faith had already been declared when she first let those spies into her house and declared to them 'I know that the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.' Smuggling them out and saving their lives was a result of that faith."

**\*\* Verse Twenty-Six:** For just as the body without breath is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

1. This verse is the key verse in our 5th Pointer for Progress, faith is dead without deeds.
2. We have been noting together that James is deeply concerned for his readers to go on to a mature stand in Christ, be fully developed, and complete lacking in nothing. So he is dealing with several practical areas that will be helpful to them as far as growing is concerned.
3. Barrett says, again, "But now that you have accepted your Lord by faith and stepped from darkness into light, now that you are here, the ground rules are different. To take this step, and then do nothing, makes about as much sense as whamming a ball over the back fence for a homer and then just standing there on home plate. Now that you are a Christian, Paul has a few things to say too and he doesn't mince words. It is to God, alone, we have to answer for our actions, he says in Romans 14:12. For everyone of us will have to stand without pretense before Christ our judge, he says in II Corinthians 5:10. We shall be rewarded for what we did when we lived in our bodies, whether it was good or bad. In Ephesians 2:9-10 he tells us 'No one can pride himself upon earning the love of God. The fact is, that what we are, we owe it to the hand of God upon us. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, to do those good deeds which God planned for us to do.'"
4. *\*\** It is by the movements of the body that we are able to discern the presense of life and so it is spiritually that by the works of the Christian are we able to discern the presense of faith.
5. Some months ago, my son, Bobby, built an incubator and in it a good number of eggs were placed. It was fun to count the days and wait expectantly for the arrival of our first chick. I cannot express the thrill of the children with the cracking of the first egg and the movement of the membrane. This movement let us know that life was in the shell. So it is, James says, that faith will manifest itself in works and as the body without breath is dead so also faith without works is dead.

*Bobby  
The  
Builder!!*



6. Ephesians 2:4-7 "But God is so rich in mercy. He loved us so much that even though we were spiritually dead and doomed by our sins, He gave us back our lives again when He raised Christ from the dead. Only by His undeserved favor have we ever been saved. And lifted us up from the grave into glory along with Christ where we'd sit with Him in the heavenly realms all because of what Christ Jesus did and now God can always point to us as examples of how very, very rich His kindness is as shown in all He has done for us through Jesus Christ."

7. Breathe on me, breath of God. Fill me with life anew that I may love with doubtless love and do what Thou wouldst do.  
Breathe on me, breath of God until my heart is pure. Until with Thee I will one will to do and to endure. Breathe on me, breath of God til I am wholly Thine. Until this earthly part of me glows with Thy fire divine.

Are you Making Progress ? Are you growing?

- ① Submitting to tests
- ② Resisting Tempt.
- ③ partaking + implementing the word.
- ④ Manifesting love without partiality.
- ⑤ Fruit from your Faith.

Lesson #1 it is possible to believe + not be a Christian.

Lesson #2 Living Faith will reveal itself in spirit produced fruit

Lesson #3 The divine equation is Faith + Food = Fruit.

Lesson #4 Faith will reveal itself by being constructively involved in the lives of others.

Lesson #5 As long as you are concerned about doing enough you probably have not exercised saving faith...