

One Step to Freedom
Chapter 4: Obedience to God's Word

Lesson 4
YOUR FAITH IS REVEALED IN WORKS

“What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?” (James 2:14)

James seeks to show the practical results of being justified by our faith in Jesus. As we truly believe in Christ, our new nature will produce good deeds out of the desire of our hearts. When our faith is revealed in our works, this proves our identity in Christ.

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

1. James launches into a series of rhetorical questions. In verses 14-16, what three questions does James ask concerning faith and works?
2. Why do you think James asked the question, “Can faith save a person?”
3. In James 2:15-16, why does James give the illustration of helping someone in need as a mark of our faith?
4. Read James 2:17-18. How does James say we need to show our faith? Explain your answer.
5. Can you look at your life and see fruitful works as a result of your faith?
6. According to James 2:19, who else believes in God and what is their response?

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In writing to the Romans, Paul quotes from the law of Moses about a confession of faith. Romans 10:8-9 reads, "But what does it say? *'The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart'* (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you **confess** with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Paul quoted from Deuteronomy 30:14, "But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may **do** it." The word "confess" means you will "do" it. This is the sign of a believer's faith: confessing Jesus is God, and doing what the Bible says.

7. As stated in James 2:20, what kind of person is one who says he believes in God but does not change the way he lives?

Read James 2:21-24 and compare it to Genesis 15:1-6, 22:11-14. Notice that Abraham believed God (15:6) and obeyed God (22:2, 10-12). Abraham's faith was confirmed by his obedience. Note also that Genesis 22:1 says that God was testing Abraham's faith.

8. How does this story relate to James 1:2-4?

9. According to James 2:21-24, how was Abraham justified? How are we justified?

10. How was Abraham's faith proved? (verse 22)

11. What does the summary of Abraham's example prove to us?

12. Write out James 2:26.

God uses James in these passages to teach us that our faith needs to be powerful enough to change our thinking, our attitude and our actions. When our faith is backed up by our actions, this certainly will help us when we are faced with trials and temptations.