

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?

1.

2.

3.

2. In James 2:14, 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. Write 1 John 3:17.

If you have faith, you will demonstrate it by loving your neighbor. Your words are empty and meaningless unless they are backed up by action.

5. How does James say we need to show our faith? Write James 2:17-18.

Deeds of loving service are not a substitute for, but rather a verification of, our faith in Christ. We cannot earn our salvation by serving and obeying God, but such actions show that our commitment to God is real.

6. Can you look at your life and see fruitful works as a result of your faith?

If there is no evidence or a demonstration of your faith, then that kind of faith is to be doubted. True faith will produce a changed life. A changed life will obey God's Word. It will produce works of love, kindness, and goodness toward others. This is proof of your faith.

7. According to James 2:19, who else believes in God, and what is their response?

8. In writing to the Romans, Paul quotes from the law of Moses about a confession of faith. Write Romans 10:8-9.

9. Paul quoted from Deuteronomy 30:14. Write it here.

The word *confess* means you will “do” it. Obeying God’s Word is the sign of a believer’s faith: confessing Jesus is God, and doing what the Bible says.

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

The KJV translation calls the person *vain*, meaning “a person who is empty, devoid of truth,” someone empty-handed and destitute of spiritual wealth. It is one who boasts of his or her faith, yet it is fruitless without effect and purpose.

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). His obedience confirmed Abraham’s faith. Note also that Genesis 22:1 says that God was testing Abraham’s faith.

11. Write James 1:3-4? Just as God tested Abraham, God tests our faith.

12. According to James 2:21-22, how was Abraham justified?

Abraham’s faith was revealed when he believed God and manifested his belief in the work of sacrificing his son. Abraham’s Faith was working together with his works, and by his actions, his faith was made perfect. In the same way, when we give our lives to God and submit to His lordship, we demonstrate our faith by our actions.

13. Write James 2:23.

Abraham’s example proves to us that a person is justified by works and not by faith only.

14. Write James 2:24.

15. Write James 2:26.

These passages in the book of James 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.