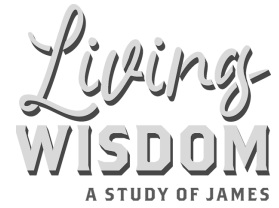


JAMES 2:14-28

October 5-6, 2022



1. Reflect on the lives of a few Christians you respect. What causes you to appreciate their faith?

What are some of the good works you observe in their lives?

2. Read James 2:14-26. What are some words and phrases repeated in these verses?

3. Read James 2:14-17 again. What circumstance concerns James in verse 14?

In James 2:15-17, what is the example James gives of a dead, useless faith?

Living faith is one that results in good works. Why is living faith important?

In what ways does living faith glorify God and show Him to the world?

4. Read James 2:18 and Ephesians 2:8-10 and answer the following questions.

Ephesians 2:8 - What saves us?

Ephesians 2:9 - What does not save us?

Ephesians 2:10 - What happens after God saves us?

As you reflect on your life, what are some of the good works God has given you to do?

5. Read James 2:19-20. James uses demons to illustrate dead, useless faith. In James 2:19, how does James describe the demons?

Read Deuteronomy 6:4, which is referenced in James 2:19. Demons correctly believe there is one God but do not trust or obey Him. True faith results in a changed life with right actions. Share a time your faith in God caused you to obey God in a hard situation.

6. Read James 2:21-24. Read also Genesis 15:1-6 and Hebrews 11:17-18. Describe Abraham's faith.

Read Genesis 22:1-2, 9-19. Describe Abraham's actions.

Which came first: Abraham's faith or actions?

7. Read James 4:4. Reread James 2:23. Describe the differences between friendship with God and friendship with the world.

8. Read James 2:25-26. Read also Joshua 2:1-15 and Hebrews 11:31. According to Hebrews 11:31, what motivated and helped Rahab to obey God?

What did Rahab do that demonstrated her justification and faith?

Rahab's faith and actions had a positive impact on the lives of those around her. How have someone's faith and actions had a positive impact on your life?

9. Contrast the dead, useless faith of the unhelpful person in James 2:15-16 and demons in James 2:19 with the living, fruitful faith of Abraham and Rahab.

What specifically do you respect about the living faith and good works of Abraham and Rahab?

10. James 2:14-26 gives us an opportunity to prayerfully evaluate our own lives. Take a few moments to ask God to give you insight into your own heart and life.

Have you realized you have a faith that is only intellectual? Write a prayer with your heart and mind placing your full trust and faith in Jesus for salvation.

Many of us have a faith that is alive and active, but there's always room for us to grow in our spiritual maturity. What are some specific areas where you would like your faith and obedience to grow?

What are some ways you see the connection between faith and works in your own life?

What ways of helping others bring you joy?

Thank and praise God for your salvation and the work He has prepared for you to do.

11. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH

James 2:14-26

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. – Ephesians 2:8-10

A Dead and Useless “Faith”

2:14-20

A “faith” with no trust in God or love for Him fails to produce good, God-honoring works.

A flippant verbal expression of “faith” or knowledge of correct facts about God with no trust, love, or obedience is cause for concern.

Without genuine faith, someone is lost and stuck in sin – with no salvation or eternal life.

A life lacking good works misses the opportunity to:

- honor our glorious God.
- show a passion for His Word.
- express genuine love and care for others.

Living as an enemy of God forgoes a peaceful relationship with Him and instead shudders in His holy presence.

Those with a dead, useless “faith” should ask God for salvation and a genuine faith in Him.

A Living Faith

2:21-26

Genuine faith exhibits trust in and love for God that overflows in good, loving, faithful action.

Authentic faith in God moved Abraham and moves us toward spiritual maturity. Our visible works exhibit a love for and trust in God, even with our most precious earthly gifts.

Life with an undeserved, wonderful friendship with our gracious God is rich and joyful.

A living faith calls Rahab and us into loving, useful service that benefits the lives of others.

Both Abraham and Rahab imperfectly but genuinely knew and trusted God and acted on it.

Keys To Walking In Living Faith

Walk constantly with your _____ God, enjoying and depending on His Spirit.
_____ fully the Scriptures and all the good works God commands and gives you to do.

Remember the _____ extended to Abraham, Rahab, and us.

Ask God to grow your trust in Him. Pursue things that _____ your faith and love for Him.

Living Wisdom – James 2:14-26
October 5-6, 2022

DEUTERONOMY 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

GENESIS 15:6 And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

HEBREWS 11:17-19 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

GENESIS 22:12 He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

GENESIS 22:8a Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son."

GENESIS 22:14 So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

JOHN 15:14-15 "You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

HEBREWS 11:31 By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

JOSHUA 2:11b "...for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath."

ROMANS 8:11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.