

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
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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.