

Faith That Works

January 13 (SES) & 14 (EW)

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James 2:14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! 20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God. 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. 25 And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? 26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

Preliminary Issues

James on Faith and Works:

- Faith without works is dead (2:17)
- Faith without works is useless (2:20)
- A person is justified by works and not by faith alone (2:24)

Paul on Faith and Works:

- We are saved by grace through faith, not by works (Eph 2:8-9)
- We are justified by faith apart from works (Rom 3:28)

Are Paul and James contradicting each other? 🤔

Observations

- James and Paul collaborated and agreed on the key theological controversy of their day (Jerusalem Council, Acts 15).
- James and Paul were speaking to different audiences and addressing different pastoral concerns.
- Paul's primary concern: "What does it take to be saved?"

I. Faith that works is more than _____ .

II. Faith that works is more than _____ .

III. Faith that works is the _____ to the Christian _____ .

Application 1: Heed James' call to self-examination.

- Is there anything I'm putting too much self-confidence in rather than depending on Christ?
- Have I experienced the transformation that comes with genuine faith?
- How can I continue to put my faith into practice?

Application 2: Foster a well-rounded Christian life.

- John Calvin: We're saved by faith alone, but saving faith is never alone.

