

James 2:14 - 26 (NLT)

DEAD FAITH (JAMES 2:14-17)

¹⁴What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? ¹⁵Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, ¹⁶and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? ¹⁷So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

DEMONIC FAITH (JAMES 2:18-19)

¹⁸Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds." ¹⁹You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.

DYNAMIC FAITH (JAMES 2:20-26)

²⁰How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless?

²¹Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²²You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. ²³And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." He was even called the friend of God.

²⁴So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone. ²⁵Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road.

²⁶Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.

Faith is a key doctrine in the Christian life.

- The sinner is saved by faith (Eph. 2:8-9)
- The believer must walk by faith (2 Cor. 5:7)
- Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6)
- Whatever we do apart from faith is sin (Rom. 14:23).

DEAD FAITH (JAMES 2:14-17)

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DEAD FAITH (JAMES 2:14-17)

The person with dead faith has only an intellectual experience. In his mind, he knows the doctrines of salvation, but he has never submitted himself to God and trusted Christ for salvation. He knows the right words, but he does not back up his words with his works.

Faith in Christ brings life (John 3:16), and where there is life there must be growth and fruit. Three times in this passage, James warns us that "faith without works is dead" (James 2:17, 20, 26).

Beware of a mere intellectual faith. No man can come to Christ by faith and remain the same. "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (1 John 5:12). Dead faith is not saving faith. Dead faith is counterfeit faith and lulls the person into a false confidence of eternal life.

Monday Morning: Action Step

Last week: Find a way to serve someone who is in:

- a. Financial need
- b. Medical need
- c. Emotional need
- d. Spiritual need

This week:

"If you can't appreciate what led you to past successes, it's tough to see the future ones!"

Reflect on how your life is more about works than it is about words and find just one way you can improve working for the Lord.

James 2:18 (NLT)

¹⁸Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds."