



## MESSAGE/SERIES:

**Series:** *JAMES: “Faith at Work”*  
**Message:** *“Don’t be Fooled”*

**DATE:** 6/19/22

## SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)

**James 2:14-26**, 1 Corinthians 2:14, 25, Romans 1:18-25, John 14:15-19, 2 Peter 1:10, 2 Corinthians 3:5-6, **Matthew 5:16**, Romans 6:9-13, Titus 3:8, Ephesians 2:8-10, **2 Corinthians 5:9**

## JAMES 2:14-26

<sup>14</sup>“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?”

### (Example of this faith)

<sup>15</sup>“If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup>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?”

### (Truth Statement)

<sup>17</sup>“**So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.**”

### (Question of differing faith)

<sup>18a</sup>“But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.”

### (Truth Statement)

<sup>18b</sup>“... **Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.**”

- *James declares there is not true faith without works or changed actions reflecting that new faith*

### (Truth Statement)

<sup>19</sup>“You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!”

### (Question)



<sup>20</sup>“Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? <sup>21</sup>**Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?**

**(Examples of True Faith #1)**

<sup>22</sup>**You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;”**

<sup>23</sup>“...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. <sup>24</sup>You see that **a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.**”

**(Example of True Faith #2)**

<sup>25</sup>“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? <sup>26</sup>**For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.**”

## OUTLINE:

**Central Theme:** Don't be fooled in our definition of true saving faith as we will always see true faith at work.

- I. (v14, 18a, 20-21) EXAMINATION OF TRUE FAITH
- II. (v15-17, 18b-19) EVIDENCE OF TRUE FAITH
- III. (v22-24, 25-26) EXAMPLES OF TRUTH FAITH

## APPLICATION:

- I. **Application Questions:** When I **EXAMINE** my understanding of saving faith what do I see?
  - (v14) Do I have a correct understanding of true saving faith?
    - *Is an individual who expresses verbal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord, but does not act upon that faith in obedience unto the Lord truly saved (a true follower of Christ)?*
  - Can true faith be of no effect on the visible life?
  - (v18) This question has been pitted **as James** (Faith without works is dead) vs **Paul** (Salvation by grace through faith alone)



- *This is more of an attention to the **inspection of the fruit of true Salvation** that only comes by grace through faith in Jesus alone= evidence of salvation*
- Is it possible to have faith without works? (Christian secret agent)
- Is it possible to have works without faith? (legalism)
- **(v20-21) Useless faith**= *to believe without obedience does not glorify God which is the purpose we are left here on earth*
- **Abraham Justified by works**= *Abraham's faith was shown to be true*
  - **"Justified"** = vindicated, shown to be genuine

= If the Lord has convicted your heart that your understanding of true faith does not match James' definition it is time to begin again to allow these passages to bring complete understanding today.

## II. **Application Questions:** When I examine do I see **EVIDENCE** in my life of true saving faith?

- *True Faith will provoke compassionate service to those in need as this is the heart of the Lord that is within us.*
- *Those who only use words and refuse to follow up with action do not display the heart of Jesus provoking*
  - This example gives us words without action as a pattern of life reveals that the love of God does not reside in the heart of the professing Christian therefore a believer in Jesus but not a follower of Jesus' ways= **No true love for people**
- *Words without actions indicate knowledge but no understanding*
- *Faith without obedience reveals= no true love of God*
  - **(John 14:15)** "if you love me, obey my commands..."
- *The devil and his demons all know Jesus is the son of God, but they choose not to serve Him*
- **(Romans 1:18-25)** *(the man has exchanged the truth about God for a lie and their actions reveal a depraved heart)*
  - Obedience= reveals Lordship



- Belief in His existence= reveals common knowledge (no true atheist)

= If the Lord has convicted your heart that your faith is not on display, make your call and election sure today

### III. **Application Questions:** When I examine the **EXAMPLES** of true saving faith in scripture does it convict me or bring great peace?

- **Example of Abraham's Faith-** was **"Completed"** by his works= to make perfect, to fulfill
  - **"Completed"**- Abraham's faith was made perfect, (mature and visible)
- *Abraham believed and trusted God therefore, "it was **counted** to him as righteousness" = His faith was counted to him as righteous before God*
  - **"counted"**- or credited to Abraham by God, instantly as righteous before God (as he believed in God and the Messiah to come), God considered it true therefore Abraham was believed by God to be righteous
  - This righteousness did not belong to Abraham but to God in Christ (imputed righteousness)
  - God grace was extended to Abraham
- **"justified"** by works and not by faith (words) alone- Before men
  - Justified, not saved by works- Abraham was shown to be true before men and God (testimony of true salvation is works that flow from faith)
    - **Matthew 5:16** "Let your light so shine among men that they might see your good works and give glory to your father which is in heaven"
- **Example of Rahab's faith-** "the body apart from the Spirit is dead"- combating dualism where the Spirit is good and the body is evil
  - The Lordship of Jesus and the indwelling Spirit resurrection power within us compels the physical body to respond (**Romans 6:9-13**)

= If the examples of past believers and followers of Christ have spurred you on to good works stop and praise the Lord for His guidance and allow the same Spirit that produced such faith in them do the same in you today!