

FAITH THAT WORKS

JAMES 2:14-26 | SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

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PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.

THIS WEEK'S PASSAGE

What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

¹⁸ But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." ¹⁹ You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. ²⁰ But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? ²² You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. ²⁴ You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵ In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶ For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

REFLECT/CONNECT

- What is a simple pleasure that brings you joy?
- What's something in life that's only valuable if you actually use it (like a tool, membership, or skill)?

Use these questions to reflect privately in prayer, or journal, or to start a meaningful conversation in your Life Group.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Men's Chili Cook-Off

OCTOBER 4 | 7 AM - 1 PM

Annual Business Meeting

SEPTEMBER 21 | 12:30 PM

Military Women Brunch

OCTOBER 11 | 10 AM

Equip Moms

NOVEMBER 11 | 6:30 PM

Some events have registration requirements/deadlines, so be sure to check our website or app for more information and registration.



GROW IN THE WORD

James asks what good it is if someone claims to have faith but does not act on it. He gives the example of a believer in need being sent away with only words and no help, showing that such faith is useless. He explains that faith by itself, without works, is dead. Even belief in one God, without obedience, falls short, since even demons believe and shudder (v. 14-19).

- Why does James say faith without works is dead? How does his example of empty words to the needy make this clear? See also 1 John 3:17-18.
- Does James teach that we are saved by works? How does James' emphasis on fruit and validation of faith fit together with Paul's teaching that salvation is by grace through faith alone? See also Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:8; John 15:8.
- What practices or habits help you keep your faith alive and growing instead of stagnant?

James illustrates his point with Abraham and Rahab. Abraham's faith was shown to be mature when he offered Isaac, and Rahab's faith was demonstrated when she welcomed the spies. Their obedience confirmed the reality of their faith. James concludes that just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead. It is useless and ineffective (v. 20-26).

- How do Abraham and Rahab illustrate faith working itself out in action? What stands out about their examples? See also Hebrews 11:17-19, 31.
- What does James mean when he says faith is "perfected" by works in verse 22? Refer back to James 1:2-4.
- What is one tangible way you can demonstrate a living, active faith in your relationships or community this week?



PRACTICE TOGETHER

- As a group or family, brainstorm practical ways you can demonstrate a living faith through serving someone in need (a meal, a visit, a word of encouragement). Choose one idea and follow through together.
- Identify one area in your life where your faith feels inactive or stagnant. What is one step of obedience you can take this week to bring it to life? Share it with someone who can pray for you and encourage you.

This section provides an easy way to live out the truths of the passage in daily life, whether you're with your Life Group, family & friends, or on your own. These practices help turn reflection into relationship & action.

