

Living Faith or Dead Faith?

February 4, 2024

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Text: James 2:14-26

Key verse: *James 2:17 (NIV) In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

James teaches us...

1. Salvation is by _____.

James 2:14 (NIV) ¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?

James 2:24 (NIV) ²⁴ You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

Does James contradict Paul's teachings on faith vs works?

Paul...

Rom 3:28 (NIV) ²⁸ For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

Biblical faith is...

Paul states...

Eph 2:8-9 (NIV) ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

Rom 5:1-2 (NIV) ¹ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

Romans 11:6 (NIV) ⁶ And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

2. Living Faith is not...

1) Just a matter of _____.

Jam 2:14 (NIV) ¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?

2) Just a _____.

Jam 2:15-16 (NIV) ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed." but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?

1 Jn 3:17-18 (NIV) ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

3) Mere _____.

Jam 2:18 (NIV) ¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

Jam 2:19 (NIV) ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

John 1:12 (ESV) ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

3. Living Faith will reveal itself in _____.

PROGRESS not PERFECTION...

James 2:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

Rom 8:29 (NIV) ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

James gives 2 Illustrations

* Abraham (vs. 20-24)

* Rahab (vs. 25)

2 Cor 13:5 (NIV) ⁵ Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves...

2 Witnesses to Salvation:

1) _____ witness – Rom 8:16

2) _____ witness – Titus 2:11-12