

**Agape House of Worship
Midweek Service & Bible Study**

**Book Study: Epistle of James
Part 5 - James 2:14-26: Relationship Between Faith & Works**

**Date: Wednesday, November 9, 2022
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Breakdown of the Study of the Book of James		
Date	Key Texts	Topic
10/12/2022	Part 1 - Overview of the Book of James	Overview of the Book of James
10/19/2022	Part 2 - James 1:1-18	Responding to Suffering and Trials
10/26/2022	Part 3 - James 1:19-27	Listening, Doing and Speaking
11/2/2022	Part 4 - James 2:1-12	Warning Against Favoritism
11/9/2022	Part 5 - James 2:14-26	Relationship Between Faith and Works
11/16/2022	Part 6 - James 3:1-12	Taming the Tongue
11/23/2022	Part 7 - James 3:13-18	Reacting with Wisdom
11/30/2022	Part 8 - James 4:1-12	Submitting Yourself to God
12/7/2022	Part 9 - James 4:13 - 5:6	Warning Against Boastfulness
12/14/2022	Part 10 - James 5:7-20	Patience and Prayer

Introduction

The relationship between faith and works is probably one of the most quoted verses in the book of James, “faith without works is dead”. This statement has also been used to advocate for works as a gateway to salvation. Some Christians believe that they must work their way to heaven. In other words, the better they do, the higher their chances are of getting into heaven. Others believe faith is enough, if they believe in Jesus as their Savior, that is all that matters.

In this study, we will discuss what Faith is, the definition of works as it relates to spiritual context, the relationship between the two and which is required for salvation.

Faith - The bible defines faith as the substance of things hope for, the evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1). Simply put, faith means relying completely on who Jesus is and what he has done to be made right with God.

Faith is not -----

Works - The word for “works” in Greek is *érgon*, and it means “toil” as an effort or occupation and by implication means an act or deed – something you “do.”

Works is not -----

God is not measuring our performance to see if our faith is real.

James 2:14-26 is sometimes taken out of context in an attempt to create a works-based system of righteousness, but that is contrary to many other passages of Scripture. James is not saying that our works make us righteous before God, but that real saving faith is demonstrated by good works.

Don’t be confused by scripture that speaks of both faith and works. It might seem confusing when you read that Paul said in Romans 3:28 that we are justified by faith without deeds of the law, but James says faith without

works is dead. Paul was speaking to the person who believed their commitment to following the law (or being a good person) was enough so they didn't need salvation in Christ. James was speaking to the person who was relying on a shallow commitment to Christ that resulted in an unchanged life.

Here lies the challenge for today. Don't be the person who believes your good works will be enough to attain heaven and don't be the person who believes a shallow spiritual decision that results in no change in you is reliable enough.

Going back to the works is falling into the same example of unbelief. In essence, we are proclaiming to God that what Christ had accomplished on the cross is not enough.

Relationship between faith and works

Without works, faith is never seen! Faith must find expression through our actions as well as our attitudes! Faith is dynamic and powerful; it therefore must express itself in very real ways!

Many profess to be Christians, but their lives and priorities indicate otherwise. By their fruits you shall know them. Your faith in Christ must produce good works.

Matthew 7:16-20 (TPT): 6You can spot them by their actions, for the fruits of their character will be obvious. You won't find sweet grapes hanging on a thorn bush, and you'll never pick good fruit from a tumbleweed. 17-19So if the tree is good, it will produce good fruit; but if the tree is bad, it will bear only rotten fruit and deserves to be cut down and burned. 20You'll know them by the obvious fruit of their lives and ministries.

Real faith involves doing something about it. Faith in the Lord Jesus is powerful. Any life that is being touched by His is going to be radiant. Faith in Jesus changes a person

If you are not bearing fruit, the problem is that you are not abiding. John 15:5

Have you ever heard the phrase "faith without works is dead" taking out of context? Give an example and your response.

Saved by Faith alone

We are justified by faith alone, but not by a dead faith. James is NOT saying that we are justified by faith plus works. He's saying that we are justified by faith alone, but the kind of faith that justifies us always produces good works. Our good works do not save us. They are the fruit of our salvation. They prove that we have been truly saved. Ephesians 2:8-9. Romans 3:27-28.

James says that faith without works is dead, he is not saying that we are justified by works or even faith plus works. Rather, he is saying that a true faith always produces good works. A faith that does not produce good works is not a saving faith; it is dead.

Is being saved by grace through faith an excuse to sin?

Good works matter to God

1. Good works glorify God
2. Good works prove that we have been truly saved
3. Good works are the evidence of our love for God
4. Good works bless others and build up the body of Christ
5. Good works will one day be rewarded
6. Good works serve people. People are dear to God
7. We were made for good works
8. We reflect Christ, following in His footsteps of doing good works