

Faith PLUS Works? ~ James 2:14-19

→ **Scripture Reading** Eph. 2:8-10, 2 Thes. 1:11-12

INTRODUCTION

James 2:1 (NIV) My brothers, AS BELIEVERS in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show FAVORITISM.

James 2:8-9 (NIV) If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. [9] But if you show favoritism, YOU SIN...

WORDS are NOT Enough ~ James 2:14-17

[14] What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?

CONTEXT is EVERYTHING

[12] Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, [13] because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

FAITH and Deeds

[14] What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?

GREEK text there were no chapter, verse markings and NO Punctuation

Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful Mercy triumphs over judgment What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds Can such faith save him (James 2:12-14 NIV)

That KIND of faith cannot SAVE him from God's DISCIPLINE as a believer. Good works in addition to faith are necessary for that kind of deliverance or salvation. Constable

[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? [17] In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

DEAD does not mean non-existent but inactive, dormant, and useless. Constable

IMPLICATIONS

→ James teaching CONTRADICTS the Teachings of Paul (TRUE or FALSE)

[14] What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?

Romans 3:28 (NIV) For we maintain that a man is JUSTIFIED by FAITH apart from observing the law.

Paul's teaching about faith and works focuses on the time BEFORE conversion...

James' focus is AFTER conversion. PTW

Paul **denies any value** to pre-conversion works...

James is pleading for the **absolute necessity** of post-conversion works. PTW

Paul says WORKS **cannot bring us** to Christ

James says **AFTER we come** to Christ WORKS **are essential**. PTW

Paul's message communicates the **required FOUNDATION**

James' directs a **lifelong BUILDING project**. LABC

➤ Paul and James were describing - Faith BEFORE salvation and Faith AFTER salvation

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV) For it is BY GRACE you have BEEN SAVED, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.

[10] For we are God's workmanship, created IN Christ Jesus to DO good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

People are justified by Faith ALONE, but NOT by a FAITH that IS ALONE. Genuine FAITH will produce good deeds, but only FAITH in Christ saves. M. Luther

→Our FIRST Responsibility is to our Brothers and Sisters

1 John 3:17-18 (NIV) 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.

APPLICATION

→Works are NOT the ROOT of Faith - Works ARE the FRUIT of Faith McDonald

Real VISIBLE Faith? ~ James 2:16-18

[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.

James' discussion is not intended to be used to SIFT the faith of OTHERS, but rather as a tool to WEIGH our own FAITH. LABC

[19] You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that - and shudder.

Deuteronomy 6:4 (NIV) Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is ONE.

APPLICATION

[14] What good is it, my brothers, if a man **CLAIMS to have faith** but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?

Paul emphasized the PURPOSE of faith - to bring SALVATION.

James emphasized the RESULTS of faith - a CHANGED life. LABC

Simply say in your heart to the Lord...

- I am LOST and I need a Savior
- Jesus You are the ONLY way
- I put my FAITH and TRUST in You

TAKE AWAY ??

Ephesians 1:4 (NIV) For HE CHOSE us IN HIM BEFORE the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight...

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) For we are God's workmanship, created IN Christ Jesus to DO good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Change my heart oh God - make it ever true. Change my heart oh God - make it more like You.

You are the Potter I am the clay. Mold me and make me this is what I pray.

Change my heart oh God - make it ever true. Change my heart oh God - make it more like You.