

**James 2:14-26**  
**Faith and Works**

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# Contents

1. The two basic questions (v. 14):
  - a. Can a person have faith and not do good works?
  - b. Can faith without good works save a person?
2. The professing believer who is unconcerned and neglectful (v. 15–17):
  - a. Acts of mercy are not a means to salvation.
  - b. Acts of mercy are necessary evidence of salvation.

# Contents

3. Deedless faith is useless faith (v. 18).
4. Pictures of faith (v. 19–20):
  - a. Faith involves willful obedience.
  - b. Dead faith does not save.
  - c. Living faith does save.
5. The man who proved his faith by works: Abraham (v. 21–24).
6. The woman who proved her faith by works: Rahab (v. 25–26).

**1. Is faith without good works of any use? Can faith only without good works save you?**

## **James 2:14**

**14 What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?**

# 1. Is faith without good works of any use? Can faith only without good works save you?

James is saying:

1. It's possible to claim to have faith but not actually have it. This does not lead to salvation.

2. Deeds are the fruit of faith, and real, true, genuine faith produces fruit. This means that if there is no fruit, then clearly there is no faith.

3. Fruit in our lives is evidence of faith in our hearts.

1. Is faith without good works of any use? Can faith only without good works save you?

## Luke 6:44-46

44 “For each tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush.

45 “The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil *man* out of the evil *treasure* brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.

46 “Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?

1. Is faith without good works of any use? Can faith only without good works save you?

## Eph. 2: 8-10

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is the gift of God*;

9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

## 2. Explain the illustration in verses 15-17?

### James 2:15-17

**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.



## 2. Explain the illustration in verses 15-17?

1. People who claim to be Christians but fail to help poverty-stricken fellow believers are in fact not saved. Their faith is dead.

### 1 John 3:17-18

17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his **brother in need** and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

## **2. Explain the illustration in verses 15-17?**

2. True faith displays love, cares for others, shows compassion and reaches out to help the needy.

3. Acts of mercy are not a means to salvation.

4. Acts of mercy are necessary evidence of salvation.

## 2. Explain the illustration in verses 15-17?

**Matt. 7: 17-21**

**17** “So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit.

**18** “A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.

**19** “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

**20** “So then, you will know them by their fruits.

**21** “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter.*

## 2. Explain the illustration in verses 15-17?

You should evaluate your own spiritual condition by examining your fruit.

1. Are you zealous for the Lord?
2. Does the fruit of the Spirit typify your life?
3. Do you love sharing the gospel?
4. Do you delight in studying God's Word and prayer?
5. Do you sacrifice things in your own life in order to pursue God?

### **3. What kind of works accompany living faith?**

#### **James 2:18**

**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.”

**1. Acts of love**

**2. Acts of caring**

**3. Acts of compassion**

**4. Acts of assisting others who are in need** 13

## 4. Why do the demons shudder?

### James 2:19-20

**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?

## 4. Why do the demons shudder?

1. Demons know the Father, Son, and Spirit personally.
2. Demons believe in the God Head. That is, they believe in God's existence and power.
3. Demons certainly know God created the world.
4. Demons believe in the judgment to come.
5. Demons believe God, but they do not submit to Him.

# 4. Why do the demons shudder?

## **Matt. 8:29**

**29** And they cried out, saying, “What business do we have with each other, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?”

## **Luke 8:28-31**

**28** Seeing Jesus, he cried out and fell before Him, and said in a loud voice, “What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me.”

**29** For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had seized him many times; and he was bound with chains and shackles and kept under guard, and *yet* he would break his bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.

**30** And Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him.

**31** They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss.



## 5. How was Abraham's faith proven through his works?

### James 2:21-24

**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.

## 5. How was Abraham's faith proven through his works?

1. Abraham's faith was proven through his works.
2. Faith and works are both necessary.
3. Doctrine is good. Knowledge is important. Nevertheless, our actions are the window to our hearts.

6. Explain how Rahab put her faith into action.

**James 2:25**

**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?

## **6. Explain how Rahab put her faith into action.**

1. Rahab's works proved that her faith was genuine.
2. Rahab believed God is the real God of heaven and earth.
3. Rahab's actions proved that she meant what she said. She risked her life in order to save the lives of the spies.
4. She betrayed her own country, people, and idols because of her faith in the true God.
5. These works proved to Israel that Rahab was loyal to Jehovah. It was because of these works (saving the spies) that she and her family were saved.

7. How does your faith change how you live on a day-to-day basis?

## James 2:26

26 For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

1. A Christian with faith will live a  
changed life.

2. A Christian who is saved will bear  
fruit.

## **8. How can you better put your faith into practice?**

- 1. Knowing a lot of things is pointless unless that knowledge changes how you live.**
- 2. Put the knowledge of the Scriptures into action.**