

What We Do Reveals Who We Really Are!

Legit Faith: All Day, Everyday! Pt. 3

James 2:14-26

April 17, 2016

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

¹⁵*Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food.*

¹⁶*If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?*

¹⁷*In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.* ¹⁸*But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”*

Ephesians 2:8, *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.*

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

➤ **Clearing Up The Confusion: Do We Have A Problem?**

- **James And Paul Were Friends Not Foes; Consistent Not INCONSISTENT!**

Galatians 2:9, *James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised.*

- **James And Paul Used The Same Terms DIFFERENTLY FAITH** - Paul spoke of an inner, genuine saving faith while James spoke of mere verbal affirmation (claims) of faith.
WORKS - Paul spoke of adherence to Jewish law and ritualism while James spoke of visible Christian deeds and actions.

Three Categories Of Works In Scripture:

1. **Works Of The FLESH:** Visible Actions That Please My Flesh And Desires.

Galatians 5:19, *The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.*

2. **Works Of The LAW:** Visible Actions We Take To Earn God’s Favor, Grace Or Salvation.

Galatians 2:16, *know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified... ²¹I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”*

3. **Works Of The SPIRIT:** Visible Actions We Take That Are Produced By The Spirit And Because Of Our Salvation.

Galatians 5:22, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

➤ **A Crucial Connection: Genuine Faith = VISIBLE ACTION**

James 2:15, *Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. ¹⁸But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”*

Ephesians 2:10, *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

Matthew 5:16, *In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

John 15:5, *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit... ⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."*

How Visible Is Your Faith - Five Key Areas:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|------------|------|
| <u>Worship:</u> | Not Visible | Moderately | Very |
| <u>Growing:</u> | Not Visible | Moderately | Very |
| <u>Giving:</u> | Not Visible | Moderately | Very |
| <u>Serving:</u> | Not Visible | Moderately | Very |
| <u>Going:</u> | Not Visible | Moderately | Very |

What Now?

1. Follow the Pastor's daily blog "www.johnmarkcaton.com" on the book of James. You can also follow it on Twitter @johnmarkcaton or on Facebook at /johnmark.caton.
2. Join a Life Group@Church or a Life Group@Home for the next 4 weeks as we study the book of James. To find a Life Group, go to our website at cottonwoodcreek.org/lifegroups. An alternative James class is available on Sundays at 4:15p in room B126.