

## **James 2:14-26**

### *False Faith*

September 19, 2021 – Rev. Rick Lyon

**Matthew 7:22-23** - "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I'll tell them plainly, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

#### **1. Dead Faith (Words without works)**

**James 2:14, 17** - What good is it brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith but doesn't have works? Can that faith save him? 17 So faith by itself, if it doesn't *result* in works, is *dead*.

**Romans 3:28** - A person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

**Romans 4:5** - To the one who doesn't work, but believes in Him who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** - For by grace you've been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

**Galatians 2:16** - We know that a person isn't 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.

**2:14** - What good is it brothers and sisters, if someone *says* he has faith but doesn't have works? Can that faith save him?

**1 John 4:20** - Anyone who doesn't love his brother, whom he has seen, can't love God, whom he hasn't seen.

**v. 17** - So you see, faith *by itself* isn't enough. Unless it *produces* good deeds, it's dead and useless.

**Martin Luther:** *"We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone."*

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**v. 18** - Now someone may argue, “Some people have faith; others have good deeds.” But I say, “How can you show me your faith if you don’t have good deeds? I’ll *show* you my faith by my good deeds.”

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### **2. Demonic Faith (Recognition without repentance)**

**v. 19** - You believe that there's one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

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### **3. Dynamic Faith**

**v. 21-24** - Wasn't Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? <sup>22</sup> Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? <sup>23</sup> And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God. <sup>24</sup> You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

**Gen. 15:6** - Abram believed in the LORD, and the LORD counted him as righteous.

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**Genesis 15:12, 17** - As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep... When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces.

**Hebrews 11:17-19** - It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God's promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, even though God had told him, "Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted." Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again.

**V. 25** - Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was *shown* to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road.

**Joshua 2:8-11** - Before the spies went to sleep that night, Rahab went up on the roof and said to them, "I know that the LORD has given you this land... For we've heard how the LORD dried up the waters of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt... For the LORD your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below."

**2 Cor. 13:5** - Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine.

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**James mentions three different kinds of faith in James 2.**

**1. \_\_\_\_\_ Faith (Words without works).**

**2. \_\_\_\_\_ Faith (Recognition without repentance).**

**3. \_\_\_\_\_ Faith.**