



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

James (Part-4) (Chapter 2)

FAITH + WORKS

PURE Faith (2:14-20): How are faith & works connected? What must come first? What must follow? Can 'works' lead to salvation? What is wrong with "strong believers" displaying zero works? What are some examples of works? What will outsiders have to say about us as individuals/family/church in the area of faith + works?

Abraham & Rahab (2:21-26): Compare and contrast Abraham and Rahab. How was faith perfected in both their cases? What is common about 'body without spirit' and 'faith without works'? Are we justified by faith/faith + works/works?

Application: Have you focused on increasing your 'works' as much as you have focused on increasing your 'faith'?

From last week

CONCLUSION:
Partiality is a
sin

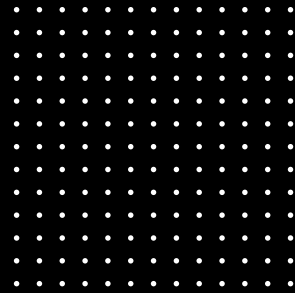
- It violates God's commandment to love our neighbors
- It is not consistent with God's character
- It is disrespectful to God's creation (humans)

How must we respond to Sin?

Confess to God & Seek forgiveness



Where must
impartiality be
practiced?



- Home
- Church
- Work/School
- Community

- Everywhere!

Law of Liberty (12)
Mercy & Justice (13)

Law of Liberty

So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty (12)

Law means “Compliance” is expected (like traffic laws)

Liberty suggests “We have freewill and freedom to obey” ... freedom to not sin!

For believers, obedience (such as impartiality) must be a delight, and not a burden

- I delight to do your will (Psalms 40:2)
- God’s commands are not burdensome (I John 5:3)
- If you love me, Keep my commandments (John 14:15)

Mercy & Justice (13)

For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment (13)

Mercy is better than Judgement

We will be judged by the same standard

- Mathew 7:1-2 “Judge not, that you be not judged. ² For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; Parable of unjust steward (Mathew 18)
- Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor Will also cry himself and not be heard (Proverbs 21:13)

God is merciful

- where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, Romans 5:20;

God is Just

- we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, II Corinthians 5:10

James
2:14-26

Dead Faith & Living Faith

How are we
saved/justified?

Examples of Living faith:
Abraham and Rahab

Dead & Living Faith (14-20)

How are faith & works connected? What must come first? What must follow? Can 'works' lead to salvation? What is wrong with "strong believers" displaying zero works? What are some examples of works? What will outsiders have to say about us as individuals/family/church in the area of faith + works?

FAITH

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1)

Christian Journey begins with Faith

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

Christian journey is sustained by Faith

Faith grows by ... (a) meditating on the Word
(b) prayer (c) exercising faith in challenging situations

If we don't have faith, fear will overwhelm us ... Pray that Lord will increase our faith (Luke 17:5)

Dead faith (14-17)

¹⁴ What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit? ¹⁷ Thus also **faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.**



Dead Faith is:

Faith without Feelings
Faith without Empathy
Faith that is of no value

Living Faith = Faith + works

¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! ²⁰ But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

Good works is not a pre-condition for salvation.

But for Living faith, Good works must follow salvation

- Salvation: Root
- Works: Fruit

We cannot separate faith & works

Faith of devil

¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!



Is Dead faith

Good
works?

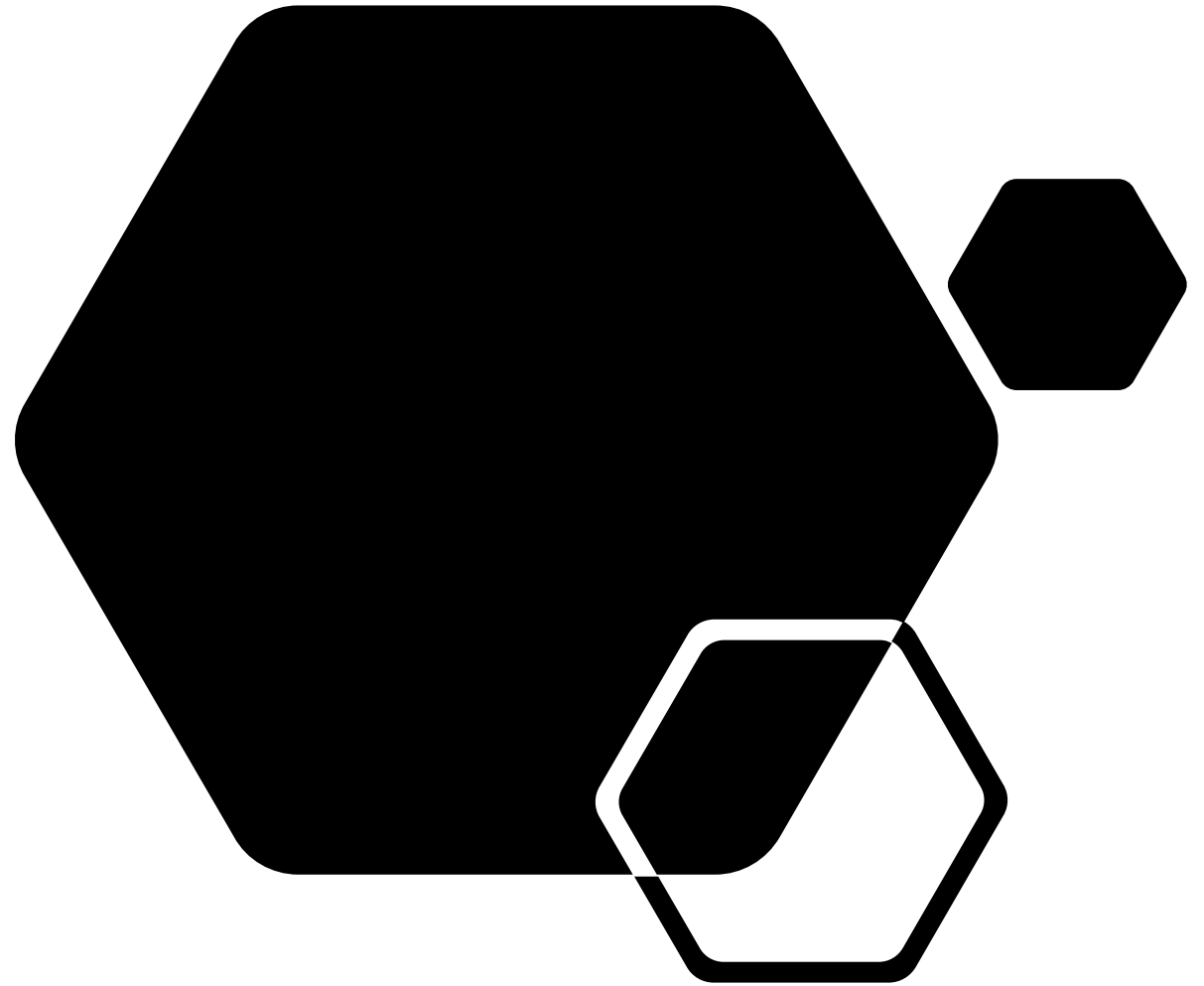
Acts of Compassion (loving our neighbors)

Obedience to God

Sacrifice of our time, talents, and treasures for the kingdom of God

Faith without
(practical) works
is a dead faith

(17, 20, 26)



How are we saved/justified?

By Faith alone

“The just shall live by faith” (Romans 1:17)

Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law (Romans 3:27-28)

Our righteousness is like filthy rags ... we are justified by the **grace** of God through **faith** in the **imputed righteousness** of Christ.

Martin Luther's
challenge to
Catholics and birth
of Protestantism
(1517)

**Salvation/Justification is
through Faith alone**

Paul on faith + works

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them (**Ephesians 2:10**)

This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to **maintain good works**. These things are good and profitable to men (**Titus 3:8**)

Genuine faith is accompanied by good works.

Example of living Faith: Abraham and Rahab

Compare and contrast Abraham and Rahab.

How was faith perfected in both their cases?

Abraham and Rahab

Abraham – a Jew, chosen generation

Rahab – a gentile, a harlot

When was Abraham
Justified?



Abraham's Justification

⁵ Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. (Genesis 15:6)

What was amazing about Abraham's faith?

What is the relevance of offering Isaac on the altar in the context of James 2?

Isaac on the altar

²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? ²² Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

Demonstration of works

(obedience that was the fruit of faith in God)

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*, of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” concluding that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense (**Hebrews 11:17-19**)

Abraham passed the test of faith.
How about us?
... Not easy to sacrifice Isaac on the
altar!

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Take now your son, your only *son* Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." (**Genesis 22:1-2**)

Rahab

How did she demonstrate living faith?

Rahab's faith + works

²⁵ Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

Faith ... Believed that God of Israel could save her

Works ... Demonstrated her faith by showing compassion to spies, and taking the risk of hiding spies

Our actions demonstrate what
we believe!

A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit
(Mathew 7:18)

Is anything wrong with so-called “strong believers” having “Zero works”?

Body without Spirit is DEAD

Faith without Works is DEAD

Would you rather be Dead or Alive?

Reflection and Application

Have you focused on increasing your 'works' as much as you have focused on increasing your 'faith'?

What will outsiders have to say about our church in the area of faith + works?

Is your faith a living faith or a dead faith?

James 2:14-26

Dead Faith & Living Faith

How are we
saved/justified?

Examples of Living faith:
Abraham and Rahab

James 1 & 2

