

JAMES

Lesson 13: Show Your Faith (Part 1)

7 February 2020

James chapter 2:14-26 discusses the responsibility of the born-again Christian to live a holy life in the eyes of God. Many Christians struggle to understand this passage because at first glance it seems to contradict the clear teachings of scripture that salvation is by grace through faith and not by works. Today we will begin to take a very careful look at these verses, comparing scripture with scripture, asking God to show us His truth and the meaning thereof.

First: —Get rid of any preconceived ideas or belief systems that will hinder your ability to see the truth.

Second: —Stand fast in the biblical teaching that salvation cannot be earned by works. A person must be saved by the grace of God through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Third: —Any person who is truly saved by God's grace will manifest some changes in their life, which are evidence of the fact of their salvation. Don't reject James 2 because you don't want to live a holy life.

Fourth: —Understand that this passage in James is for the Christian; it cannot be discarded as something that was written for the Jew in the Tribulation.

The key: James 2 is dealing with people who say they have something (vs 14, 16, 18), but their life does not bear witness to what their mouth professes. They're all talk, but no walk. Their profession is vain (empty), according to verse 20.

- The devils are presented as an example of vain believers in verse 19. This kind of belief will not save a person.
 - In **First Corinthians 15:2**, the Bible speaks of those who believe the gospel in vain. They believed the facts about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ on an intellectual level, but they would not repent and trust Him. This kind of belief is not saving faith.
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Vs 14 Simply saying you have faith cannot save you. If you are saved, your salvation will produce works.

15-16 An illustration is given to show the vanity of words. Your words don't show that you care about someone in need; your actions (works) are evidence that you care.

- Your words, "I love God" will not profit you if you haven't repented of your sin and trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior (action).

Vs 17 If there are no works, there is no saving faith.

Vs 18 It is impossible to show faith without works. If your faith is genuine, it will be seen; there will be evidence (Hebrews 11:1).

Vs 19 Intellectual belief is not faith. The devils believe (intellectually) in Christ; they do not put faith in Him.

- Many people hear the word of God (**Romans 10:17**), but hearing is not faith. Hearing is necessary to bring about faith but hearing the truth and knowing the truth is not faith.

Vs 20 Here's some more knowledge for the vain man who has knowledge, but no faith. "**Faith without works is dead.**" Hebrews 11 provides the greatest examples of faith:

- Hebrews 11:1. Faith has substance. Faith is the evidence of the invisible. It is believing what you hear and acting upon it. By FAITH:
 - Vs 4 Abel offered. His actions provided evidence that He trusted God.
 - Vs 5 Enoch was translated. The things he did by faith pleased God.
 - Vs 7 Noah prepared an ark.
 - Vs 20 Isaac blessed.
 - Vs 21 Jacob blessed.
 - Vs 22 Joseph made mention.
 - Vs 23 Moses when he was born was hid (evidence of his parent's faith).
 - Vs 24 Moses refused. Vs 27 he forsook.
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