

How to Have Real Faith

Developing a Faith That Works - Part 7 **James 2:14-26**

"Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by actions, is dead." (vs. 17)

I. WHO IS RIGHT - JAMES OR PAUL? BOTH

Paul (Galatians 2:16)	&	James (James 2:24)
Problem: "Legalism"		"Laxity"
"WORKS" Jewish laws		Christian lifestyle
Focus: "Root of salvation" (internal/unseen)		"Fruit of salvation" (external/seen)
Purpose: How to <u>know</u> I'm a Christian		How to <u>show</u> I'm a Christian

"For it is BY GRACE you have been saved THROUGH FAITH ... FOR a life of GOOD WORKS which God has already prepared for us to do." Eph. 2:8-10 (GN)

II. WHAT IS REAL FAITH?

1. Real faith is not just something you SAY.

"What good is it, my brothers, if a man CLAIMS to have faith, but has no deeds? Can such "faith" save him? (vs. 14)

Matt. 7:20-23

2. Real faith is not just something you FEEL.

"Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?" (vs. 15-16)

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?" 1 John 3:17

Also 3:14-16, 4:7-20

James 2:17 (NIV) ¹⁷ *In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

3. Real faith is not just something you THINK.

"But someone will say, 'You have faith - I have deeds.' SHOW ME your faith without deeds, and I will SHOW YOU my faith by what I do." (vs. 18)

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) ¹⁷ *"Any time a person becomes a Christian he becomes a new person inside; the old things have passed away. All things become new."*

4. Real faith is not just something you BELIEVE.

"You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that -- and shudder!" (vs. 19)

5. Real faith is something you DO.

Illustrations: Two very different people

* Abraham (vs. 20-24)

* Rahab (vs. 25)

2 Cor. 13:5 "Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves."