

Practical Christianity Faith and Works James 2.14-26

As we began our journey through James, the first book of the New Testament to be penned, We discovered,

- **Diverse Temptations**
- **Source of Godly Wisdom** – The Word of God
- **How to Conquer Temptation**
- **We need to Welcome the Word of God into our lives**
- **Not to be respectors of persons**
- **Walk In The Law of Liberty** – The Word of God

So, much is revealed to every Christian through the book of James as they begin to walk in Their Christian Journey.

Read Our Text

A. The Fallacy Of Fained Faith (vs 18-19) - *Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. ¹⁹Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*

Different Types of Faith,

- **Cultural Faith** - The Philosophy of mankind. What seems right.
- **Common Faith** - Trusting in our daily affairs. That your paycheck will arrive, that the pilot knows how to fly and land the plane, that the engineers properly designed the building, etc . . .
- **Cozy Faith** - That which makes you feel okay.
- **Christian Faith (Rom 4.20-21)** - That faith that is described in the Bible. Faith as it is defined by God. **Biblical Faith**

Romans 4:20–21 - *He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was **strong in faith**, giving glory to God; ²¹**And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.***

God's Definition of Faith is,

- Receive a Word from God

***Romans 10:17** - So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

- Believe What God Has Said
- Act On What God Has Said

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A. The Fallacy Of Fained Faith

Biblical Faith is to Take God At His Word.

James 2:18–19** - Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. ¹⁹**Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

It is common today for people to say, “I have Faith, I believe in Jesus.” And many stop right there as say, “You must be saved!”

Consider verse 19 very carefully.

***James 2:19** - Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*

Understand that the Devil, Lucifer, that fallen angel, the diabolical dragon of Revelation,

- Believes that Jesus Christ was born of a Virgin
- Believes that Jesus Christ suffered and died on Calvary's Cross
- Believes that Jesus Christ physically arose from the grave
- Believes that Jesus Christ has ascended on high and is seated at the Right Hand of God the Father Almighty.

Rom 10.9

Satan and the devils tremble at Jesus Christ!

Yet there will not be one devil or demon that will enter into God's eternal kingdom we call Heaven. So, there must be something different about the Faith in our text than just stating that one believes in God or in Jesus Christ.

True Biblical Faith is what saves a person, bringing them into the New Birth and adopting them into the Family and Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. That is,

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A. The Fallacy Of Fained Faith

- **Receiving A Word From God**

***Romans 10:9–10** - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

- **Believing What God Has Said**

***Romans 10:9** - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth **the Lord Jesus**, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

It is impossible to receive the Lord Jesus Christ for what he does (SAVIOR) without receiving Him for who he is (LORD)!

- **Acting on what God Has Said**

***Romans 10:9** - That if thou shalt **confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus**, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

This is so much more than just simply saying “I believe Jesus is.”

It is so incredibly important that you understand that there must be something in your salvation and your confession of faith in Christ that is more than the devil's mere belief.

It is this distinction of surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ that establishes God given faith within you. This is the kind of faith that will change you and renew your mind. This is the kind of faith that saves a person.

Works Based Salvation - When our text says that Faith without Works is dead. It is not saying the Works save you. It is saying if you really have Saving Faith then that Faith will work its way out of you. I will not be an idle or dead faith. It will be a life transforming faith.

Because you are saved your faith will produce godly works through you.

B. The Foundation Of Faithful Faith

James 2:14 - What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

*James 2:17–18 - Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. ¹⁸Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, **and I will shew thee my faith by my works.***

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A. The Fallacy Of Fained Faith
B. The Foundation of Faithful Faith

Foundational Biblical Faith born out of one's redemption in Christ will be a working Faith.

This is the last part of the true definition Faith. Faith is,

- **Receiving a Word from God**
- **Believing What God Has Said**
- **Acting On What God Has Said**

A Born Again Christian, walking by faith, will act on what God has said in His Word. If there is no work in your faith then you do not have FAITH.

What kind of Works of Faith will work itself out of a Born Again Christian?

1. **Works of Compassion (vs 14-17) - What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? ¹⁷Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.**

This will be the Love of God, the Love of our Lord Jesus Christ, that works itself into you at the moment of your salvation working itself out of you in your life's work.

Matthew 22:36–39 - Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

³⁷Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸This is the first and great

commandment. ³⁹ **And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.**

A Born-Again Christian will not be able to help but to love those that our Lord Jesus Christ loves. Our Lord Jesus Christ loves every human being who will ever live. You will never look in the eyes of someone who the Lord Jesus Christ does not love.

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A. The Fallacy Of Fained Faith
B. The Foundation of Faithful Faith
1. Works of Compassion

The love of God in you will drive you to love your fellow man and to help whomever you can help in any way that you can help them.

Works of Godly compassion will be manifested in the faith and life of those who have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

While these acts of love and compassion are an evidence of Godly Faith they are not the absolute test of saving faith as there are many kind and benevolent people who have no faith in God at all. Yet they are a manifestation of the works of faith of those who belong to our Lord.

2. **Works of Sacrificial Obedience (vs 21-24), Abraham** - *Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? ²²Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? ²³And 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. ²⁴Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.*

Abraham's Faith is a great example of Working Biblical Faith. **Abraham's Faith was sacrificial faith in its work.** Abraham was obedient in His faith all the way to being willing to sacrifice his long awaited and promised son, Isaac.

Abraham had learned to trust God in every way. God gave Abraham the promise of an heir. After many years of waiting God kept His Word and Isaac was born.

Years later God told Abraham to take his son of promise to a mountain and sacrifice him there. Abraham received a hard Word from God, but in faith, went to do exactly what God had asked of him.

I once heard a preacher declare that Abraham knew that God would provide a lamb on that mountain as he went there. Yet the Word of God tells us otherwise,

Hebrews 11:17–19 - *By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, ¹⁸Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: ¹⁹**Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead;** from whence also he received him in a figure.*

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- A. The Fallacy Of Fained Faith**
- B. The Foundation of Faithful Faith**
 - 1. Works of Compassion
 - 2. Works of Sacrificial Obedience

Abraham intended to be fully obedient to God, He intended to sacrifice Isaac, and **believed that God would raise Isaac up from the dead to keep the Word of God** that was given to Abraham many years ago.

Abraham's Work of Faith is an example of a Working Sacrificial Faith.

Our faith must be based on the given Word of God and acting on what God has said. We have that Word of God in this perfectly preserved King James Bible.

Will you believe what God has said and live your life accordingly.

Faith without Works is Dead.

True Faith, Biblical Faith, in the Lord Jesus Christ will produce sacrificial works in our Christian Journey. We will faithfully trust God to keep His Word in every way.

3. **Works of Testifying Faith (vs 25-26), Rahab** - *Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? ²⁶For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*

Rahab was a harlot in Jericho, who hid Israel's spies, saving their lives. Who was promised deliverance when Jericho's walls would come tumbling down. Rahab was told to stay in her house, hang a scarlet thread in her window, and

that anyone who was in her house with her when the city was conquered would be spared.

Rahab saved the spies, and called people to come into her house when the city would be destroyed for their survival.

Our text teaches us that faith without works is dead.

Our Faith must be founded on the revelation and Word of God.

Our Faith must be Sacrificially Obedient to the Word that God has given us.

Our Faith must be Compassionate and giving to those our Lord Loves.

Does your Faith live and work?

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A. The Fallacy Of Fained Faith

B. The Foundation of Faithful Faith

1. Works of Compassion
2. Works of Sacrificial Obedience
3. Works of Testifying Faith