

Faith Works

[Jas 2:14-17 ESV] 14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

I. Intro

- A. Here we go!
- B. The responsibility of the believer is clearly articulated
- C. If you are of the Faith, You will have works
- D. Your authentic faith saves you, empowers you, and sets you apart!
 - 1. "Faith is like a toothbrush: Everybody should have one and use it regularly, but it isn't safe to use somebody else's."
 - 2. Your faith has to be your own, and will have effect.
 - 3. Faith, when used properly, has a great impact on others.
- E. Your authentic faith produces
 - 1. Acts of worship
 - 2. Acts of righteousness
 - 3. Acts of Service
 - 4. Acts of sacrifice

II. Text

- A. Verse 14
 - 1. This verse sets up to argument James is making
 - 2. Faith that does not produce works is not faith that saves.
- B. Verses 15-16
 - 1. Notice these verses do not go directly to some sin that is super offensive to our moral standards
 - 2. This verse appeals to works of faith that are produced through the work of the Spirit that helps a brother in need.
 - 3. We must act upon opportunities
- C. Verse 17
 - 1. If you believe in something, but it does not produce the fruit of the Spirit, you are not believing in Christ.
 - 2. You are maybe:
 - a) Gaining knowledge without understanding
 - b) Refusing to allow your heart to be overwhelmed

III. Points

- A. Saving Faith Produces Faith Fruit
 - 1. [Gal 5:19-26 ESV] 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.
 - 2. Faith is something that marks change in the believer, and has throughout time.
 - 3. When you have saving faith, you look at the world differently.
 - a) You see brokenness, but have hope
 - b) You see depravity, but have security

- c) You see fear, but have confidence
- 4. Let us be reminded of our need to live out this faith so others can also have life change.
- B. Saving Faith Changes Hearts
 - 1. The heart change is not a once and done, but a continual process
 - 2. But the step of faith that produces salvation is complete when you enter the relationship.
 - 3. [2Co 5:16-17 ESV] 16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
 - a) *parerchomai*: passed away: to get past something
 - b) This is our spiritual location when we come to faith in Christ
- C. Saving Faith Brings Life
 - 1. Life is precious and a blessing
 - 2. Life is also challenging and causes us to be dependent.
 - 3. Life in Christ brings freedom from bondage
 - 4. [Jhn 8:34-36 ESV] 34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
 - 5. Freedom, genuine freedom, is only found in Christ!
- IV. Close
 - A. Faith works in you, to grow you in your likeness of Christ
 - B. Faith works through you to encourage others to follow Christ
 - C. Faith works for you, strengthening you for the ministry to which you've been called.
 - D. Faith is at work, and the one who has faith, has work.