



## Lesson 5: Three Kinds of Faith (2:14-26)

Faith or works? Do we get to heaven through faith in what Christ has done on the cross or by doing good things? Paul seems to have settled the question for us in Romans 4:1-5. We confidently conclude that man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. But when we read what James has to say on the topic of faith and works it confuses us: *“By works a man is justified, and not by faith only”* (v. 24).

This portion of the book of James is so confusion that the great reformer Martin Luther wanted the whole book thrown out. We are going to take a closer look at this passage and when we are finished we are going to see that Paul and James don't contradict each other at all. They actually \_\_\_\_\_ each other.

In James 2:14-26 James contrasts three kinds of faith. Because God gives us His revelation he wants us to hold to and live out genuine faith.

### STATIC FAITH (v. 14-17)

James has already asserted that salvation is a gracious gift from God, but there is a kind of apparent faith that is \_\_\_\_\_ and does not save.

#### A. Substitutes \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 14-16)

Those who have static faith know the correct Christian vocabulary. They may even be able to quote Scripture. The problem is that their “\_\_\_\_\_” does not measure up with their “\_\_\_\_\_.” If faith does not lead to transformation in behavior it's \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ are no substitute for \_\_\_\_\_ of love.

#### B. Substitutes \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge for \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge (v. 14-16)

Any declaration of faith that does not result in a changed life is a false declaration. James is not disputing the importance of faith. Rather, he is opposing the notion that saving faith can be mere intellectual exercise void of a commitment of \_\_\_\_\_ obedience.

### SATANIC FAITH (v. 18-19)

TRUTH BOMB FROM JAMES: The \_\_\_\_\_ affirm the oneness of God and tremble at its implications.

James shocks his readers. He points out that even demons have a kind of faith. They even believe in the deity of Christ. Demons have made some amazing confessions of faith:

- *“I know who you are; the \_\_\_\_\_ one of \_\_\_\_\_”* (Mark 1:24)
- *“What have I to do with you, Jesus, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Most High \_\_\_\_\_”* (Mark 5:7)

These demons knew who Jesus was; they even made the right confession about Him; but no demon is ever going to heaven. That is why James is saying faith *alone* is not enough.

A person can be enlightened in his \_\_\_\_\_ and even stirred in his \_\_\_\_\_ but still be lost forever.

### SAVING FAITH (v. 20-26)

So far James has introduced us to 2 kinds of faith that can never save: *Static* (involving the \_\_\_\_\_ alone) and *Satanic* (involving the intellect and the \_\_\_\_\_ but stopping there). He closes this section of the book by describing the only true faith that can save.

#### A. The explanation of saving faith

The thing that sets saving faith apart from false faith is that it involves the whole man.

- 1) The \_\_\_\_\_ understands the truth
- 2) The \_\_\_\_\_ desires and rejoices in the truth
- 3) The \_\_\_\_\_ acts upon the truth

True saving faith, then, \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_!

#### B. The illustration of saving faith

James uses 2 illustrations from the OT to support his arguments for saving faith. Both characters seem at first glance to be very different from each other.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_: Father of the Jews. Godly man. Friend of God.
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_: Gentile. Sinful woman. Belonged to the enemies of God.

What do we learn from this illustration? We learn that faith without works is dead because it is alone. Perfect, saving faith necessitates a changed life.

The point is very clear. Talk is not enough. \_\_\_\_\_ are not enough. Real faith translates into real \_\_\_\_\_. Nothing can substitute for action. Nothing! Not even prayer! Not even service!

