



INTRODUCTION

This section is the main thesis of James. Everything before this passage is like an arrow pointing forward to it. Everything after is like an arrow pointing back. The book of James is all about hands-on Christianity. He wants us to stop sitting on our hands and start using them to do God’s work. Real faith results in works!

THE _____ OF FALSE FAITH (2:14-20, 26)

Not all faith is valid faith. Some faith is bogus, phony, a pseudo-faith. James calls false faith “dead faith”. With that in mind, he performs an autopsy of dead faith pointing out its worthless, useless, and lifeless attributes. At the funeral of dead faith 3 epitaphs could be written on its tombstone.

A. _____ without _____ is _____.

Application: Genuine faith gives you a genuine love for God and others. Saving faith provides a heart of compassion that result in action. For kindness is “love in shoe leather”. The Apostle John wrote of this, “But whoso hath this world’s goods, and seeth his brother in need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? Little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth” (I Jn. 3:17-18). Our faith is to be evidenced not just in “word only”, but in works also.

B. _____ without _____ is _____.

Application: The individual that acknowledges Christ but never accepts Christ has “dead faith”. It is faith in “name only”. They believe in their head biblical and historical facts *about* Jesus, but have never trusted *in* Jesus with their heart. They may nod in agreement, but they have never knelt in acceptance. Many will miss heaven by 18 inches. They know facts in their head, but they have never bowed in faith in their heart. Dead faith knows right words and facts, but demonstrates no real works of faith. Have you personally received Christ as your Savior?

C. _____ without _____ is _____.

Application: A faith that is outwardly unproductive is also inwardly dead. A faith that has no accompanying works is dead as measured by its own barrenness. Like a corpse, which may have all the outward dimensions and configuration of a man, but if there is no evidence of life, the body is pronounced dead. It is faith in “form only”. True faith will be energetic in displaying itself by its fruits, but a faith that is merely professed without any observable effects is a false faith.

THE _____ OF TRUE FAITH (2:21-25)

True, Christian faith will manifest its existence in active obedience to God’s Word. True faith is living faith. It is not in “word only”, but evident to others through obvious works. It is not in “name only” or “form only”, but practices obedience before God. True faith is a belief that results in dynamic, active response to God’s grace.

Salvation is _____ grace _____ faith _____ good works (Eph. 2:8-10)

A. The example of _____

Abraham’s works displayed the dynamic faith he possessed. Abraham was not saved because he obeyed God’s command. Instead, his obedience demonstrated his faith in God. In other words, the faith that secured Abraham’s righteousness before God in Genesis 15 produced the supreme evidence of its work some 30 years later in Genesis 22.

B. The example of _____

Rahab believed the word of God and demonstrated her faith in God through obedience. Her faith resulted in action and that action was rewarded by God.

CONCLUSION

James would have heartily sung “If you’re saved and you know it then your life will surely show it”. The question we must ask ourselves is, “Does my life demonstrate my faith”? If I were put on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict me of being guilty? Is my faith in “word only”, “name only”, or “form only”? Do I have “dead faith” or living faith? Someone has said, “If your religion hasn’t changed you, you ought to change your religion”. Living faith is experienced by grace through faith and evidenced through good works. Real faith results in works.



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