

James #6

Jas 2:14-26 (NKJV) What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? [15] If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, [16] and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? [17] Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. [18] But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. [19] You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! [20] But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? [21] Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? [22] Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? [23] And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS." And he was called the friend of God. [24] You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. [25] Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? [26] For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Jas 2:14-26 (NKJV) What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?

Faith = Pistis – To trust in, to believe in,

- Not Hope = "we must need to have faith!"
 - o Hope is a fruit of the mind
 - o Faith is a fruit of the will
- HOPE: "I hope that God will save me"
 - o A decision of the will in favor of what God is doing
- FAITH: "I believe that God will save me"

The origin of Faith

- Rom 10:17 (NKJV) So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
 - o When we hear what God is saying – that is when Faith can begin
 - o We have the choice of believing or being double-minded

The nature of Faith

- Heb 11:1 (NKJV) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
 - o When we have faith – it is a thing of "substance"
 - o When we have faith – it is "evidence"
 - Not a hope but a firm understanding
 - Similar to putting your key into the switch of the car
 - You expect to hear your car turn over
 - If it doesn't you are surprised!

Having faith means to;

1. Seek the Lord
2. Hear the Lord on a matter
3. Choosing to believe what God is saying

So what is "works"

- Does it mean striving? – no
- Work = ergon – "that which one undertakes to do..."
 - o "Purposeful doing"

- That which you give your effort to accomplish
 - The investment of energy

We were designed to work.

- Humans were designed to work
 - Eph 2:10 (NIV) For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
 - God created us to work

“CAN FAITH SAVE HIM?”

- Why do we work?
 - It's True, we do not work to get God's favor
 - God's love is given to all
 - God's favor is given to those who love Him
 - Our work benefits us
 - WE WORK BECAUSE WE LOVE GOD!
 - We do what He has called us to do out of LOVE for Him.
 - We DO work for our own health
 - Purpose – to fulfill the design of God - work gives purpose to life
 - Eph 2:10 (NIV) For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
 - Wages – (financial support) Work gives us a means of provision
 - Pro 14:23 (NIV) Hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.
 - Respect – (participation in community) Being a “contributing” member
 - 2Th 3:10 (NIV) For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."
 - Self-respect – Sense of accomplishment in life
 - Ecc 3:13 (NKJV) ...every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor—it is the gift of God.

[15] If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, [16] and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? [17] Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

- What is your response to those in need?

THREE CHOICES...

- 1. Don't respond at all
 - Fear may cause you to ignore those who make you feel uncomfortable
 - Or you may just
 - Mat 5:42 (NIV) Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.
 - Not responding to the needs of those around you is contrary to will of God
 - God is generous with those who are truly needy – we must be like him
- 2. Give to everyone who has needs – all who appears to be in need
 - We feel guilty when we see people who are in need
 - You may be giving to someone who has plenty
 - Share experience with picking up beggar at McDonalds
 - YOU MUST KNOW IF THE NEED IS REAL
 - Focus on meeting real needs
 - Don't throw money at people to ease your conscience

- Not all who ASK for help – need help
- 3. Give to those who are truly in need
 - A. FIRST - Those in the Body of Christ who are having difficult times
 - B. SECOND - Those who you PERSONALLY KNOW who are having difficult times
 - Do you keep giving to those who will not participate in supporting themselves?
 - It is essential that everyone have a means of gainful employment!
 - It is for their benefit and for participation in community
 - 2Th 3:10 (NIV) For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."
 - This is important

[18] But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. [19] You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! [20] But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

- "Faith always leads to action"
 - When we pray, we must not be in awe that God spoke to us..
 - We must "STEWARD THE WORD" of God
 - The Parable of the Sower
 - The seed is the word of God
 - The word must find "good soil" and become rooted in us
 - This produces "work of God" = producing 30X, 60X or 100X more!
 - The Parable of the Talents
 - The riches given to the masters servants
 - The riches must be invested (put to work!)
 - We cannot bury the word of God to us
- "Stewarding the Word of God"
 - Share about reading through Journal
 - God is revealing that I do a lot more "hearing" than "doing"
 - I am a "Rhema Collector"
 - I am amazed at how clearly God speaks to me
 - I am an American believer = "If we have talked about it, we have done it!"
 - I realize that "talking about it" is not good stewardship
 - I am determined to hear God say, "Well done, good and faithful Servant"
- We must be vigilant on ourselves about OBEDIENCE
 - We cannot be impressed with Faith alone!
 - Believing what God has said in only HALF of what He wants
 - ALL FAITH LEADS TO ACTION!
- But Jon, "God does not love us for what we can do for Him, He loves us just like we are!"
 - Yes, there is nothing I can do to make god love me more...
 - Yes, there is nothing I can do to make God love me less...
 - THIS IS TRUE!
 - BUT... We can grieve the Spirit of God by disobedience
 - Eph 2:10 (NIV) [We were] created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
- Look at the example of Jesus
 - He did not exhibit a life that was based on faith alone
 - Jesus was a hard worker
 - Jesus did HARD THINGS – even gave His life on the cross

- Jesus was active in EVERYTHING that God told Him to do
 - This was the means of our salvation
 - This is an example for us
 - Jhn 5:19 (NIV) Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

EXAMPLE: Abraham

[21] Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? [22] Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? [23] And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS." And he was called the friend of God. [24] You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

- Abraham believed that God told Him to sacrifice His only son.
- "Accounted to Him as righteousness"
 - Because Abraham HEARD, BELIEVED and OBEYED GOD
 - God declared him righteous (in right relationship)
 - Abraham had no Bible
 - He was just a man who heard God and DID EXACTLY what God said
 - God said, because you have faith and works = righteousness...
 - Abraham actually...
 - took His son up on the mountain,
 - Tied him up
 - Took out His knife
 - Lifted it to kill his son
- Abraham had faith like NO OTHER MAN
 - He did not follow a religion – He followed God
- ABRAHAM FOLLOWED FOUR PRACTICES...
 - He simply...
 - **Seek** – He Sought the face of the Lord
 - **Hear** – He Listened to what God said
 - **Believe** – He Believed what God said
 - **Obey** – He DID what God told him to do..

THE PROCESS OF FAITH AND WORK...

- **WE GET STUCK in the process of faith**
 - **Seek** – We must SEEK the face of the Lord
 - We don't seek God!
 - We fail to give our time and attention to God
 - Meeting with God does not rate a hour in our schedule
 - When we learn to seek the Lord where He may be found... we HEAR
 - **Hear** - Listen to what God says to us
 - When we hear – we fail to "steward the word"
 - we don't value it enough to write it down
 - When we hear – we focus on the "event of hearing"
 - We hold what we hear at arms length – we don't let it affect us
 - WHEN WE TRULY HEAR THE LORD WE HAVE THE OPTION TO BELIEVE
 - **Believe** – Believe what God says...

- When we hear – we can choose not to believe (put our trust in) what is said
- When we believe – we can look for God to do it instead of putting it on our “to do” list
- **Obey** - Doing what God has told us to do..
 - When we step out in obedience – we experience the fullness of the promise of god

EXAMPLE:

[25] Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?

[26] For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

- HOW IMPORTANT IS WORKS
 - There is not living without a body – the body is the container for the soul
 - There is no life without a spirit – The spirit is the life that exists in the body
 - THIS IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BELIEVING AND DOING
 - Faith without obedience is dead
 - Just like
 - a spirit without a body is dead
 - a body without a spirit is dead

What is the Lord saying to you about your faith

- Do you seek the Lord
 - Is it on your schedule – 15 minutes each day, 1 hour each week
 - Do you have “Facetime” with God
- Do you steward the word of God
 - Do you write down what God says to you
 - Do you cherish and remember, review what he says
- Do you choose to believe what God has said to you
 - The word of God to you will always be stretching – it will be MORE than you can do alone
 - You must choose to believe what God has said rather than what you believe
 - You can partner with God, the Devil or yourself. You have a choice
- Are you doing what God has given you to do
 - It is beyond what is comfortable
 - “ I delight to do your will”