

FAITH WORKS

LIVING THE FAITH WE CLAIM - JAMES

Faith Works!

James 2:14-17

- Faith:
 - Seeks
 - Perseveres
 - Does
 - Cares
 - Loves
 - Works

- James is very concerned with faith, but not saving faith-Romans 3
 - He wants evidence of saving faith
 - He's looking at the intentional works of a person who claims faith
 - Not faith + works = salvation
 - Faith + salvation = works

- What is faith?
 - James will not let us make faith intensely:
 - Personal, internal, devotional, or religious
- James will talk about belief in Jesus, but he won't let our primary expression of faith be about our devotional feelings for God
- Saint Simeon- 390-459 BC



- David Bebbington:
 - Authority of the Bible
 - Necessity of conversion
 - Faith in Christ's work on the cross
 - Mission
 - Supernatural Christianity

James 2:14-16

¹⁴ What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that?

- A brother or sister approaches us and has a need
- This need can take many forms
 - How many of you know someone here that is in need?
 - What have you done to help meet that need?
- Would James evaluate us in this room like this?

- You can be committed to many things that can be good
 - But never lift a finger to love others
 - Never intentionally go out of your way to meet the needs of people in this room
- Night of Prayer
- Prison Ministry

- James is blunt: works don't save you and your claimed faith without works isn't saving
- Faith apart from works is dead; works apart from faith is lifeless
- It's a dead faith because it has
 - An empty confession
 - No compassion
 - & it comes from a heart that hasn't been regenerated

- I love God, but it's OK if I don't have love for others or deeds that are changed - LIE
- I love God and people and do good things and that all gets me to heaven - LIE
- I love God because of Jesus and that gets me to heaven. I love others and do good because I'm headed to heaven!

- Why does this matter?
 - b/c we are talking about the state of our souls - saved & redeemed & reborn or not?
 - don't you want the evidence of this in your life?
- James is full of examples of this kind of life-changed faith
- "...where sovereign grace reaches down and totally transforms a person, there will be an abandonment of self to the sovereignty of Christ as part of that saving work." - Ligon Duncan

- There's a faith that doesn't save
 - Tends to be devotional and void of actions and change
- Saving faith seeks good works, eagerly looks for ways to show God's saving work (2 Peter 1:5-6)

Matthew 7:16-23

16 You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? 17 So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 So then, you will know them by their fruits. 21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. 22 Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'