

False Faith

(James 2:14-26)

Faith is a key doctrine in our Christian life. The sinner is saved by faith, and the believer must walk by faith. Without faith it is impossible to please God, and whatever we do apart from faith is a sin.

- Someone once said that faith is not “believing in spite of evidence, but obeying in spite of consequence.” We see in Hebrews 11, men and women who acted on God’s Word, no matter the consequence. Hebrews 11: 32-38
- Faith is not some kind of feeling that you work up; faith is CONFIDENCE that God’s Word is true and CONVICTION that acting on that Word will bring His blessing in your life.
- What kind of faith really saves a person? Is it necessary to perform good deeds in order to be saved? How can a person tell whether or not he is exercising true saving faith? James answered these questions by explaining to us that there are three kinds of faith, only one of which is TRUE saving faith.

1. Dead Faith (2:14-17)

- Wherever there is the truth, you will find the counterfeit. Jesus warned, “Not everyone that says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven.”

- People with dead faith substitute words for good deeds. They know the correct vocabulary for prayer, and can even quote the right verses, but their walk does not measure up to their talk.
- James gives an example of this when he said that a poor man came into the fellowship, without proper clothes and in need of food. The person with dead faith noticed the need, but did nothing to meet his needs. All he did was say some pious words! “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed.”
- As believers, we have an OBLIGATION to help meet the needs of people, no matter who they may be. Galatians 6:10 says “As we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, especially to those who are in the faith.” Matthew 25:40 says “Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me.”
- Any declaration of faith that does not result in a changed life and good works is a FALSE DECLARATION!! That kind of faith is DEAD!!!!
- The great theologian John Calvin wrote, “It is faith alone that justifies, but faith that justifies can never be alone.”
- The word alone in James 2:17 simply means “by its self.” True faith can NEVER be by itself: It always brings life, and life produces good works.
- The person with dead faith has only an intellectual experience. Beware of a mere intellectual faith.
- No man can come to Christ by faith and remain the same any more than he can come into contact with a 220-volt wire and remain the same. And to demonstrate this point I would like Rob Piper to come up and stick his finger in this outlet.

- Dead faith is not saving faith. Dead faith is counterfeit faith that lulls the person into a false confidence of eternal life.