

False Faith (cont.)

(James 2:14-26)

2. **Demonic Faith (2:18-19)** “But someone will say, you have faith; I have deeds. Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that and shutter.”

- James wanted to shock his readers so he used demons as his illustration.
- It comes as a shock to people that demons have faith, but they do! What do they believe?
 - They believe in the existence of God. They are neither atheists nor agnostics. They believe in the deity of Christ, His son ship, a place of punishment, and they also recognize Jesus as the Judge. And they submit to the power of His Word.
- The man with dead faith was touched only in his intellect, but the demons are also touched with their emotions. They believe and shutter.
 - It is not a saving experience to believe and tremble. A person can be enlightened in his mind and stirred in his heart and be lost forever!
 - Real saving faith involves something more, something that can be seen and recognized: **A CHANGED LIFE!**
 - Being a Christian involves trusting Christ and living for Christ.
- James has introduced us to two kinds of faith that can never save a sinner: Dead faith, (The intellect alone) and demonic faith, (The intellect and the emotions).
- He closes with a description of the only kind of faith that can save us:
DYNAMIC FAITH!

- Dynamic faith is faith that is real, faith that has power, faith that results in a CHANGED LIFE!!
 - Dynamic saving faith is based on the Word of God, not emotion or intellectual assent. We receive the Word and it saves us “So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”
 - Faith is only as good as its object. NO matter how much faith a person might generate, if it is not directed at the right object, it will not accomplish anything.
 - “I believe” might be the testimony of many sincere people, but the big question is, in whom do you believe? And what do you believe.”
 - We are not saved by faith in faith; we are saved by faith in Christ as revealed in His Word!
- Dynamic faith is based on God’s Word, and it involves the whole person. Dead faith touches the intellect; demonic faith touches both the intellect and the emotions, but dynamic faith involves the will.
- The whole person plays a part in true saving faith. The mind understands the truth, the heart desires the truth; and the will acts upon the truth.
 - True saving faith leads to action. Dynamic faith is not intellectual contemplation or emotional concentration; it leads to obedience on the part of the will. And it’s not just a onetime event, but rather it continues throughout your life. It leads to works.
- James 2 emphasizes that the mature Christian practices these truth in his everyday life. It’s what sets us apart from the ordinary and mundane, and sets our lives on a collision course to the miraculous, through our practice of God’s word and living in truth DYNAMIC faith in Jesus Christ.