



Sermon Discussion Guide

06.22.25 Message | Ryan Wiemelt | James 2:14-26

Key Scripture (ESV):

"What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead."

- James 2:14-26

Message Highlights:

1. To say you believe but do not have the active conviction to live out your faith daily, your faith is not alive.
 2. If your actions were the only evidence someone had of your faith, what conclusion would they draw?
 3. Living faith always produces visible works.
 4. Works are evidence, not currency.
 5. Good works are the day-to-day overflow of a heart already filled with saving faith.
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Conversation Starter:

If someone observed you closely this week, what would they conclude about your beliefs and priorities?

Discuss the Message:

1. Ryan said, "To say you believe but do not have the active conviction to live out your faith daily, your faith is not alive." How does this perspective challenge your daily choices?
 2. Ryan posed the question, "If your actions were the only evidence someone had of your faith, what conclusion would they draw?" Share one recent action you believe clearly demonstrated your faith.
 3. Ryan highlighted, "Living faith always produces visible works." What are practical ways you've experienced or observed this truth?
 4. Discuss Ryan's point, "Works are evidence, not currency." How might misunderstanding this concept impact someone's relationship with God?
 5. Reflecting on Ryan's statement, "Good works are the day-to-day overflow of a heart already filled with saving faith," how do you maintain your works as genuine reflections of your faith?
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Think Deeper:

1. Why is it crucial that faith be evidenced by visible actions, according to James? (v. 14-18)
 2. How does the fact that even demons believe challenge your understanding of true faith? (v. 19)
 3. What distinguishes "dead faith" from "living faith", practically? (v. 26)
 4. How does the example of Abraham offering Isaac help us understand the relationship between faith and action? (v. 21-23)
 5. How can the example of Rahab encourage us to demonstrate faith through difficult choices? (v. 25)
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Think Life Change:

1. What aspects of your life might remain unchanged if your faith were not genuine?
 2. Where might you be confusing mere belief about Jesus with active trust in Jesus?
 3. Identify a recent situation where your actions did not align with your professed faith. How can you approach similar situations differently?
 4. What practical steps can you take this week to make your faith more visible?
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Think Engage:

1. Within your sphere of influence, how might you notice your faith in action differently over this coming week?
 2. Identify one opportunity in your community to actively demonstrate your faith. What steps will you take?
 3. Who within your circle could benefit most from seeing your faith actively lived out? Why?
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Think Kingdom:

1. How would a clearer connection between your faith and actions impact your understanding of God's Kingdom?
2. Viewing your daily interactions as Kingdom opportunities, how might your approach to challenging circumstances shift this week?