



## “Faith” James 2:14-26

James 2:24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

Romans 3:28 For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Who Is Right – James or Paul? **BOTH!**

“Justified” = Gr. make yourself right or prove yourself right.

We are saved by faith alone, but saving faith is never alone. James is not showing us how to get saved but how to know that you are saved.

### Insufficient Signs of Real Faith:

- It's more than what you say (profession). Vv14-17
- It's more than what you do (good works). V18; Matt6:1-4; Eph2:8-9
- It's more than what you believe (doctrine). V19a
- It's more than what you feel (emotional experience). V19b

A person with Saving Faith will have these characteristics but you can have any or all these characteristics without Saving Faith.

Matthew 7:21-23 Not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord,” (Profess) will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to me, “Lord, Lord, (Passion/Feeling/Emotion) did we not prophesy in your name (Doctrine), and cast out demons in your name (Change agents), and do many mighty works (Good works) in your name?” <sup>23</sup> And then will I declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.”

The difference is between using God v22 vs. serving God v21. A user looks to God as a means, but a server looks to God as the glorious end.

### Unmistakable Signs of Real Faith:

- Admit that you are a sinner made right with God by grace through faith in Christ's work, not yours. James 2:5, 21-23; Rom 3:23, 6:23, 5:8
- Believe that you can never be so good that you don't need God's grace or so bad that you can't receive God's grace. Vv20-26
- Celebrate God's outrageous love for you by loving Him with your whole person (mind/emotion/will) and love your neighbor as yourself. Vv20-26; Matt22:36-40

### Growing Notes

- 1) We are saved by faith alone (Rom3:28), but saving faith is never alone (James 2:24). Explain. How & why does the “Deceiver” keep the truly saved unsure of their salvation & the truly unsaved sure of their salvation? James is NOT showing us how to get saved but how to know that you are saved. Why is this so important? How does it keep us from fear or from being dead wrong?
- 2) Read James 2:14-26. What are the two questions this text starts with? How does James illustrate his point that faith without works is dead (vv15-17)? What do demons believe about God and how does it affect them (v19)? What did Abraham do to show his faith (vv21-23)? How did Rahab show her faith (v25)? What made Abraham righteous (v23)?
- 3) What are the insufficient signs of real faith? Do any of these, surprise you? A person with Real Faith will have these characteristics but you can have any or all these characteristics without Real Faith (Matt7:21-23). Explain.
- 4) What are the unmistakable signs of real faith? What does it mean to be radically fallen and infinitely exalted by grace through faith in Christ (James 2:5; Rom3:23, 6:23, 5:8)? Can you ever be so good that you don't need God's grace or so bad that you can't receive God's grace? Explain. What does it mean to love God with your whole person and your neighbor as yourself (Matt22:37-39)? Do you have saving faith? What is God speaking to you? Pray.