

**Ministry of The Holy Spirit**  
**Faith Works**  
**James 2:14-26**

Last time...the faith of Christ and favoritism/discrimination do not mix!

The Royal Law is to govern all our “doing and hearing”

Being Christ-like ,and not antiChrist-like, toward others

This time...faith and works i.e. faith works

Evidence of The Royal Law

We will be in James 2

v14 say he has faith and have not works:

The context of this letter to the Church: being Christ-like in very difficult times

- persecution
- famine

The immediate context of this passage: “doing” the Royal Law –

Love your neighbor as yourself

The Holy Spirit

- our Teacher
- our guide to all truth
- the Testifier of Jesus Christ
- the Convicter of sin

poses a very interesting and very serious question:

What eternal good has a man who says he has faith but has no works?

Can faith (alone) save him from the wages of sin?

Sin, the very nature of man and the fruit of his being that separates him from God,

is both action/doing (letter of the Law) AND thought/saying

(SoM, Spirit of the Law)

Sin yields death

By grace thru faith are we are saved from the wages of sin (death)

The faith is the faith of Christ, of which we are given a measure

Gal 2:16, 20

because works/obedience must be perfect (v10)

Salvation by Jesus’ work, not ours

Heb 12:2

The faith of Christ, the antidote to sin, is as sin –

both action/doing AND thought/saying

What Jesus did in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the Cross was both

Matt 26:39 O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou *wilt*.  
(faith of Christ: said, then did)

Matt 26:53 *Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?*  
(faith of Christ: said, then did...evidence)

Luke 23:34 *Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*

Luke 23:46 *Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit*  
(faith of Christ: did, then said)

Heb 9:11-12 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*  
(faith of Christ: did what said)

To say one has faith and to have no works bearing evidence of that faith is empty

PTL Jesus did not have an empty faith!

v15-16 If a brother or sister...what does it profit:

This letter of instruction in righteousness is to the Church

Brother or sister...Church family

Matt 12:48-50

Gal 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

In context of the difficult times facing the Church, will believers do the Royal Law or just give it lip service?

A real-life example, then and now

If a child of God is in need of food and/or clothing...  
food and clothes – the two things Jesus promised to provide  
(Matt 6:31-33)  
and another child of God “helps” by saying “Lord bless you!”  
but doing nothing to help when he/she is able to help,  
(when a tangible, physical blessing from the Lord via His  
Body/Church/Family is precisely what is needed)  
of what value is the faith of the not-helpful person?

What value do words have without compassion?  
What kind of a witness of Jesus Christ Who always helped is that?

Since Ex 23:4-5      If thou meet **thine enemy's** ox or his ass going  
astray, thou shalt surely bring it back to him again.  
If thou see the ass of him that hateth thee lying  
under his burden, and wouldest forbear to help him,  
thou shalt surely help with him.

is true and righteous, how much more helping a brother or sister?  
Deut 22:1-4      Thou shalt not see **thy brother's** ox or his sheep go  
astray, and hide thyself from them: thou shalt in any  
case bring them again unto thy brother. And if thy  
brother *be* not nigh unto thee, or if thou know him  
not, then thou shalt bring it unto thine own house,  
and it shall be with thee until thy brother seek after  
it, and thou shalt restore it to him again. In like  
manner shalt thou do with his ass; and so shalt thou  
do with his raiment; and with all lost thing of thy  
brother's, which he hath lost, and thou hast found,  
shalt thou do likewise: thou mayest not hide thyself.  
Thou shalt not see thy brother's ass or his ox fall  
down by the way, and hide thyself from them: thou  
shalt surely help him to lift *them* up again.

Is not the Helper, the Spirit of God Who is the Helper of the poor and  
needy, grieved by one who does not help?  
Is doing nothing keeping the Royal Law (for both enemy and brother)?  
Is it love or cruelty?  
Is not the Body to do the will of the Head of the Body?  
What value is my right arm if it has a mind of its own and does not  
what my head tells it to do?

Love is the fulfillment of the Law (Matt 22:36-40, Rom 13:10)  
Love takes time and effort, love comes with a personal cost (cost to Self)  
Mercy is love in action; mercy takes time and effort and comes at a personal cost  
So it is with faith...love in action, requiring time and effort at a personal cost  
(works)

With James 1:5 in mind...

Prov 3:27-28 Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do *it*. Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.

Helping: no time like the present!

Prov 28:27 He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.

Deut 15:7-11

love in action, faith (in the Provider) in action

1 John 3:17-18

To see a brother or sister in need and to not help is

- harmful...to all parties
- selfish...not Self-less, breaking the Royal Law

Saying, God bless you!" does not save you, doing what God says saves you

Talk is cheap...faith that saves works, comes at a cost

v17 faith...not works...dead:

Thinking/Saying without action/doing is dead...life-less

Jesus (John 1:4) said and did, far more than saying but not doing

The faith of Christ (v1) is saying AND doing (James 1:22)

as Jesus said AND did (Matt 16:24)

Faith is active, faith works

v18 You have...I have...shew:

A person may say, "I have faith, I have said the Sinner's Prayer."

Another person says, "I have works, evidence of the faith I professed.

You declare your faith without works, I will declare my faith by my works.

You have nothing to show for all your words, I have much to say by my works (my faith in action before God and man).

Faith that does not work is empty...and false

Faith that works is full...and true

You say you have faith, show me!

v19-20    devils also believe...faith without works is dead:  
            To believe but not do is dead, a worthless faith

The demons know there is but OTL God, who Jesus is and so said  
            Mark 1:21-27

But they do not do...do not submit their will to His will in loving obedience  
            They have not “the faith of Christ”  
            They have nothing to show for their belief except rebellion/self-will

Same goes for those who are not doers of the Word and Royal Law  
            O vain man...having a dead faith, no evidence of genuine faith,  
                    says has faith, said Sinner’s Prayer but has nothing to show for his  
                    words

Titus 1:15-16    Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but unto them that are defiled  
                            and unbelieving *is* nothing pure; but even their mind and  
                            conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God; but in  
                            works they deny *him*, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto  
                            every good work reprobate.

Faith without evidence is false, rebellious, and self-deceptive  
v17 repeated for emphasis

A professed faith alone is

- Life-less
- use-less
- worth-less

The Holy Spirit gives us an example

v21-23    Abraham...Friend of God:  
            Abraham received the promises of God  
                    Gen 12:1-4 at age 75  
                    He believed...he went (Heb 11:8)

                    Gen 15:1-5  
                    He believed...Gen 15:6

                    Gen 17:1-8 at age 99  
                    But his belief/faith was tested...and proven...in Gen 22:15-18  
                    (At age 133?)

With proven faith...words and deeds, deeds as evidence of his words, his faith  
            seen by what he did...Abraham was justified

- declared innocent of all wrong-doing
- made righteous

Faith works

True faith has evidence (works)

Works complete/perfect faith

Faith and works are not contradictory, they are complimentary

What is in my heart will surely be seen in my actions.

Action makes my faith complete/whole (v22)

Eph 2:8-10 compliments, does not contradict

Salvation is God's work

Our works are evidence of being saved

Faith without works is dead/life-less

Works without faith is also dead/life-less (salvation by works)

Life is faith evidenced by works

Abraham's faith worked and he was accounted righteous by God

John 8:56

Heb 11:17-19

Rom 4:17-25

2 Chron 20:7

Is 41:8

John 6:28-29 and John 15:14

Faith works

v24 by works a man is justified:

To be just-as-if-it-never happened (Ps 103:12), our measure of the faith of Christ  
(Rom 12:3) must be backed up/seen by our deeds

Faith without works is empty

Works without faith is empty

The faith that pleases God (Heb 11:6) is active...saying AND doing

A man is saved by a faith that works

Genuine faith and works/evidence are inseparable

The Holy Spirit gives us another example of this eternal truth

v25 Rahab:

Rahab, the harlot in Jericho that believed

- the testimony of God...what He did using the nation of Israel up to mustering before Jericho
- the testimony of the 2 spies...God has given us this land and fights for us

by doing

- hiding the 2 spies from the civil authorities
- protecting the 2 spies by misdirecting the search party
- siding with the Living God over the godless people among whom she lived (acting on what she believed)

Heb 11:31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

Matt 1:5 in the line of the Messiah

v26 faith without works is dead:

An eternal truth stated for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time:

Faith without works is dead/life-less

Just as the fleshly body separated from the spirit is dead,  
so is faith separated from works/actions/deeds/proof

By what we do, our lives bear witness of what we believe

Born of the flesh, we were dead in sin (Eph 2:1-3)  
Self is lord...as evidenced by word AND deed  
Death

Born of the Spirit of God, we were made alive (John 1:12-13)  
Jesus is Lord...as evidenced by word AND deed  
Life

Whether of the flesh or of the Spirit, word and deed are inseparable  
Life or Death – word AND deed

## Application/Lessons

Faith alone saves but faith that saves is not alone

faith = belief + action/works

The question is not “Are we saved by faith OR works?”

Both faith alone and works alone are dead

Eternal Life is found in the cooperation of faith AND works

Not just the talk, but walking the talk

God tests our faith (Ch 1:2-4) as He tested Abraham’s faith

Proof is in the pudding...our deeds/actions showing if we rely on Jesus or not

Saving faith is the harmonious cooperation of our words and our deeds

Titus 3:8      *This is* a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

Tough questions (2 Cor 13:5):

- Can my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ be seen by God and man?
- Am I a real Christian or a pretend Christian?
- Am I self-deceived or do I know Whom I believed by the “body of work” as a follower of Jesus Christ?

Only I can answer these tough questions for myself, and you for yourself.

Ask God tough, honest questions and ask Him to reveal the truth to us individually

In my flesh there is no good thing (Rom 7:18)

Regarding the things of God, the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak (Matt 26:41)

Therefore, I need help!

And God has given us a Helper – the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ

So that, by the power of God from on High, we can

- be doers and hearers
- keep the Royal Law
- do what we say...evidence of faith that saves
- Matt 16:24

The timeliness of the Epistle of James

In the difficult times in which we live, how is our faith being tested and perfected/completed?

What are we doing to bear evidence that Jesus Christ is our Lord and God?

Homeless children in Kyrene School District

What are we...you and me and this Church...going to do: v16 or v22?