



Iron Men

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Iron Men

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CONNECT * GROW * SERVE

“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another”



DOING LIFE
TOGETHER

Study #5 -James 2:14-26

Faith that works... has works!

The Book of James



James is describing a faith that works. In chapter one he begins by helping believers understand that Christians benefit from trials. They don't get angry with God. They don't resent Him & blame Him. They look at these external situations and rejoice knowing they are opportunities to grow.

He begins chapter 2 by telling them a faith that works doesn't show partiality. He says if we're still playing favorites we're motivated by self and we're sinning.

Now in -2:14-26 James moves on to works. He explains that a faith that works, has works! This is a very controversial section of the book. Many think James & Paul contradict each other, but they do not. As we explore this section it should become clear that James and Paul focus on works differently.

1. Read -2:14-26 over a number of times:

A. What is the main point of his argument in -vs. 14-17?

B. What is the main point of his argument in -vs. 18-20?

C. What is the main point of his argument in -vs. 21-26?

17. What does Paul teach about salvation by works –Gal. 2:16 and works after salvation –Gal. 5:16-19?

The difference in James AND Paul's Focus!

| | <u>James</u> | <u>Paul</u> |
|----|--------------|-------------|
| 1. | _____ | _____ |
| 2. | _____ | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | _____ |
| 4. | _____ | _____ |
| 5. | _____ | _____ |
| 6. | _____ | _____ |

"These two examples (*Abraham & Rahab* –vs. 21-25) show fully and finally that faith and deeds are not opposites; they are, in fact, inseparables. No man will ever be moved to action without faith; and no man's faith is real until it moves him to action. Faith and deeds are opposite sides of a man's experience of God." William Barclay

13. What is the difference between how Paul uses the word justified –Gal. 2:16 (Rom. 4:4) and how James uses the word justified -2:21,25?

14. Both James & Paul use Abraham as an example. In Heb. 11:8-12 & 17-19 how many ways does Abraham's faith "show"? What are the action words attached to his faith? Did those actions save him or were they just evidence of his saving faith?

15. What does Paul teach about salvation by works –Eph. 2:8,9, and works after salvation –Eph. 2:10?

16. What does Paul teach about salvation by works –Titus 3:5 and works after salvation –Titus 3:8?

2. What is the phrase James uses to conclude each of those arguments? (-2:17, 2:20, 2:26)

3. What is the contrast and the question James poses in –2:14?

4. What does the illustration of -2:15&16 point out?

5. What does the person say (or think) in –vs. 18?

6. Is it possible to have faith exclusive of works or works exclusive of faith? How does James respond to this -2:18b?

7. How does –Mt. 7:15-20 relate?

8. What does James warn people about in -2:19?

9. What does James call the person who thinks faith & works can be separated? -2:20 What does that mean?

10. James moves on to the theological argument in -2:21-26. Compare –Rom. 3:28, Gal. 2:16, Eph. 2:8,9, Titus 3:5 with James 2:24. Does it appear like James and Paul contradict each other?

11. What is the difference between works to get into Christ and works as a result of Christ being in us?

12. Compare –Rom. 4:1-5 & –James 2:21-23. Does it look like James and Paul are in agreement? They are using the same scripture –Rom. 4:3 & -James 2:23 to prove their points. Are they making the same point?