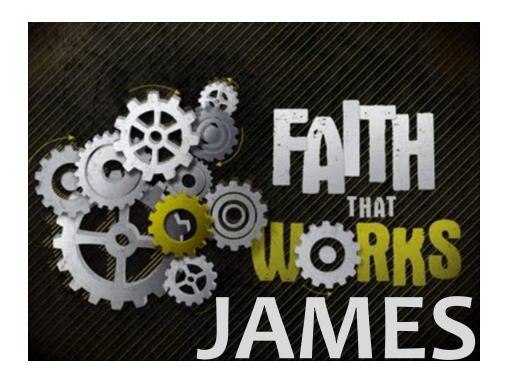


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Calvary Baptist Church

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"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another"



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

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

- 4. What does the illustration of -2:15&16 point out?
- 15. What does Paul teach about salvation by works –Eph. 2:8,9, and works after salvation –Eph. 2:10?
- 5. What does the person say (or think) in –vs. 18?
- 16. What does Paul teach about salvation by works –Titus 3:5 and works after salvation –Titus 3:8?

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

7. How does –Mt. 7:15-20 relate?

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

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

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