



THE EVIDENCE OF A
GENUINE FAITH

PURSUING WHAT
MATTERS TO GOD

The Evidence of your
Relationship with God

(James 2:14-26)

Study Notes Handout: Oct 11th

So... 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!' – Jam. 2:17f

Let it ever be remembered that genuine faith in Christ will ever be productive of good works; for this faith works by love... and love to God always produces obedience. – Adam Clarke

Debating about faith and works? It's like asking which blade in a pair of scissors is most important.
- C. S. Lewis

The truth is that, though we were justified by faith alone, the faith that justifies is never alone. It always produces fruit – good works – a transformed life. – J. I. Packer

Introduction: The Faith that does no Good (2:14 – 16)

1. Characteristics of a Faith that does no Good (2:17 – 20)

- The deadness of a faith that does no good (2:17)
- The deceit of a faith that does no good (2:18 – 19)
- The futility of a faith that does no good (2:20)

2. Characteristics of a Faith that Works (2:21 – 25)

- The completeness of a faith that works (2:21 – 24)
- The synergy of a faith that works (2:22)
- Examples of a faith that works: Abraham and Rahab (2:21 – 25)

Conclusion: Signs of a Living Faith (2:26)



Study and Discussion Questions

James 2:14-26

Open It

1. If you were 100 miles from home with no money, no credit cards, no friends, no transportation, and no place to stay, what would you do to survive and make it home?
2. What is the difference between someone who talks about a problem and someone who does something about the problem?

Explore It

3. What is the relationship between faith and deeds? (2:14)
4. What illustration did James use to explain how real faith affects a person's deeds? (2:15-17)
5. What is wrong with having faith without deeds? (2:18-26)
6. What did Abraham do to show his faith? (2:21-23)
7. How is a person justified before God? (2:24)
8. How did Rahab show faith? (2:25)

Get It

9. How is being a Christian supposed to change the way we live?
10. What is one way to tell if a person has a real, living faith?
11. What is difficult about applying what we hear in church to our everyday lives?
12. If God has forgiven us and promised us eternal life, what motivation do we have to live in obedience to Him today?
13. In what areas of your life do you want to begin acting more like a Christian?

Apply It

14. In what home, work, or neighborhood situations might you be able to show faith in God this week? How?
15. How can you show greater faith in God by what you do this week?