

Title ideas:
Living Right with Living
Faith!
Living Right with Real Faith!

James 2:14-26 - Living Right with Living Faith!

Scriptures:

Romans 3:28 - Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Romans 4:5 - But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness...

14 What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone

3786 –
advantage, good,
benefit

says he has faith but does not have works? Can

4102 -

2041 – “duty n. —
work that a
person is obliged
to perform for
moral or legal
reasons.”

faith save him?

4982 -

Notes:

Is this section James will discuss the relationship between faith and works. Faith is what we believe, and works are what we do.

In the Greek both of these rhetorical questions demand negative answers.

‘Can faith save him?’ Some infer from this that James is saying that we must have works to be saved. There are some who believe ‘faith + works = salvation’. The apostle Paul taught clearly that this is not true (Rom 3:28; Eph. 2:8-9).

Paul taught the doctrine of ‘sola fide’ – faith alone for salvation. Faith leads to salvation. What James says is that faith that has led to salvation leads to good works. Not ‘faith + works = salvation’ but ‘faith = salvation = works’.

Paul focuses on the time before salvation and James’ focus is on the time after salvation. Paul is talking about the root of faith – James is talking about the fruit of faith. Paul is arguing for the priority of faith and James for the proof of faith.

Just as a bird needs two wings to fly, Christians need two things, faith and works to live right in a wrong world.

Believing that a parachute will save you when you jump out of an airplane does you no good if you don’t pull the ripcord on the way down.

Scriptures:

15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of

1131 – poorly
clothed or,
needing more or
better clothing

3007 – be in
need, lack, not
possess

Notes:

James gives a practical example.

daily food,

Scriptures:

16 and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace,

5217 – move
along, leave

1515 – “blessing
of peace n. — a
state of peace
that is a blessing
or favor from
God.”

Notes:

The assumption is that they believe
the person needs help and they are
in a position to help. They believe it
would be right to meet their need
but then they do nothing.

be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them

2328 -

5526 – filled to
satisfaction

1325 -

the things which are needed for the body, what

does it profit?

3786 -

Scriptures:

¹⁷ Thus also faith ^{HH} by itself, if it does not have

Notes:

'dead' = lifeless, useless, vain

Workless faith = worthless faith!

"It is faith alone that justifies, but faith that justifies can never be alone." John Calvin (Wiersbe – page 354)

^{UP} works, is ^{da} dead.

3498 – lifeless,
useless, vain

¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith, and I

have works.” Show me your faith without your

2041 -

1166 -
demonstrate

works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

another and then act upon those beliefs.

One of the works of faith that James is calling Christians to is to stand on the truth of God’s Word and stand against the lies of the devil. There is a push to teach the racist ideology of CRT to our children in the public schools. The people who want this are so deceived as to believe that the only way our nation will be able to heal from its ugly past mistakes is to teach this hateful doctrine to children – it teaches children to hate. If it is allowed to continue, it will lead to division, hate, and violence like this nation has not seen before.

We must teach our children to love their neighbor, regardless of their skin color, or gender, religion, political affiliation, or any other external thing. We must teach them that they are not what others say they are – they are what God says they are – a beautifully crafted masterpiece of a loving God, created in His image to bring Him glory.

Teach them the best way to show the world that God loves them is by loving others – even if they hate us in return. The only hope this nation has is if God’s people wake up and stand for what is right against the forces of evil who seem to be winning right now. In the end God wins – believe it and act like you believe it!

Notes:

James is saying that we can examine what someone does to determine what is inside of them. Real faith will produce godly works. The absence of godly works suggests a problem of faith.

James is pointing to the reality that Christianity is about both what we believe and what we do.

In our culture the influence of Critical Theory and Critical Race Theory disregard both faith and works to determine what it describes as social justice. It divides the world into two groups – oppressed and oppressors. This worldview examines oppression from the past and then labels anyone who is in that oppressor group as irredeemably oppressors.

For example, the ugly sin of racism has been a part of the human condition for thousands of years and shows up in every culture around the globe. Racism is the belief that one race is superior to another and the ‘works’ of racism are discrimination and persecution. Historically, it has also led to slavery. There are millions (40.3 million) of people in slavery today around the globe.

Nations actively engaged in slavery:

- North Korea (10% of population)
- Eritrea
- Burundi
- Cent. African Republic
- Afghanistan
- Mauritania
- South Sudan
- Pakistan
- Cambodia
- Iran

According to CRT racism is something a white person does. None of the above nations are white. In this country, the bloodiest war in our history was fought to end slavery.

According to CRT, it doesn’t matter what you believe or what you do that makes you a racist. The color of your skin is what determines whether or not you are a racist – which is a very racist thing to believe.

As Christians, or really anyone, you are not what other people say you are. You are what God says you are. You are what you believe and what you do based on those beliefs. You are not a racist, or a bigot, or a white supremacist, or any other ‘ist’ just because someone who believes the false ideology of CT and CRT says you are. Someone is a racist if they believe one race is superior to

Scriptures:

19 **You** believe that there is one God. **You** do well.

4100 – think to be
true, implying
trust

1520 -

2573 – good,
implies
correctness

Notes:

'demons...tremble' – the work or response of faith is fear, trembling.

The demons believe in the reality of God's existence and even in His mighty power. They choose to rebel against God and disobey what they know to be truth. Simply believing will not save anyone. Someone who truly believes in God and the truth of His Word will yield themselves to God's will and do godly works of faith.

Even the demons believe—and tremble!

1140 – evil spirits

5425 -

Scriptures:

20 But do **you** want to know, O foolish man, that

2756 - stupid

Notes:

Whether someone has real saving faith is something only God knows – and He does know without doubt whether someone's faith is real or not. Works are what someone does before men that serves as evidence of real saving faith.

faith without works is dead?

If someone does works that resemble works of faith but they do not have faith the result is useless. God can still use that work for His glory and to bless others, but it is useless to the person doing it. It is likely that no good fruit come out of it.

Scriptures:

Hebrews 11:17-19 - By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," 19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

21 Was not Abraham our father ^A justified ^{OK} by ^Y works

1344 –
vindicated,
declared
righteous

when he offered ^I Isaac ^A his ^Y son on the altar?

399 – offer up

Notes:

Abraham is the spiritual father of the Christian faith. It was through Him that God formed a unique nation, the Jews, through whom He raised up the Savior, who founded the church with His blood on the cross.

God promised to make Abraham the father of an innumerable multitude and then gave him only one son through whom that nation would descend. Then God told Abraham to sacrifice his only son. The promise of a great nation and the command to sacrifice Isaac seemed to be contradictory – both couldn't be true. But Abraham believed God's promise and obeyed God's command.

The book of Hebrews tells us that he believed something that was humanly impossible ([Heb. 11:17-19](#)). Abraham proved what he believed by doing what God said.

Scriptures:

²² Do **you** see that faith ^{HA} was ^{HT} working together with

4903 – to
collaborate

Notes:

It is not enough just to believe. Your faith will never grow beyond your willingness to obey God and His Word.

^A his works, and by ^{HT} works ^{HA} faith was made perfect?

5048 – perfected,
completed

Scriptures:
Genesis 15:6 - And he
believed in the LORD, and
He accounted it to him for
righteousness.

23 And the Scripture [⚡] was fulfilled which says,

Notes:
Abraham believed God = righteous
(made right with God) = proved he
was righteous by obeying God.

^A “[⚡] Abraham [⚡] believed God, and it was accounted to

3049 – ‘to be
credited.’

^A him for ^{OK} righteousness.” And he ^A was called

the friend of God.

5384 -

Scriptures:

24 [⚡] You see then that a man is ^{OK} justified by [⚡] works,

Notes:
What you believe does not make you
right with God. What you do
because of what you believe is what
makes you right with God.

[⚡] and not by faith only.

Scriptures:

Joshua 2:8-13 - Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, 9 and said to the men: "I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. 10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. 11 And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. 12 Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token, 13 and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death."

25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also

justified by works when she received the

5264 – welcome,
receive as a guest

messengers and sent *them* out another way?

Notes:

Abraham, the great patriarch of the Jewish people is the greatest example of faith working. Just in case that was too high of an example for some to relate to he used Rahab the harlot as a second example.

Rahab believed that God was going to give the land of Canaan to the people of Israel and her work of faith was to hide the spies from the people of her city.

Scriptures:

²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so

4151 – soul, the
nonmaterial
faculty that can
respond to God.

faith without works is dead also.

[Top of Section](#) [Top of Chapter](#)

Notes:

Physical death occurs when our spirit leaves our body. The natural process of death includes decay. The same is true of faith without works – spiritual decay is the result. A faith that does no works of faith will experience a decay that will lead to sin, rebellion, and also turning away from the faith.

The stench of spiritual death hangs over many Churches, Christians, marriages, and families because faith is not growing or working.

That is why so many churches and denominations are turning away from God's Word – and getting involved in godless activities like embracing the LGBTQ+ agenda, even ordaining gay clergy.

Many are embracing the false religion of CT and CRT and issues like Global Warming. It is how the pope can talk about a future where all religions are united into one unholy alliance in the name of unity.

What we do in this life matters. It matters to God, and it matters to the world around us. The world is going the wrong way and many Christians and churches are going the same wrong way as the world. We are called by God to know Him and to trust in Him and then do works of faith that prove to the world that there is a holy God who loves them and wants them in His family.

It fills me with awe and a sense of wonder that Mighty God cares about my life and how I live it. It makes me want to do it better every day.