

Study 3 James 2:14—26

Review Relationship of Jesus Sermon on the Mt and James 2

Hear and Do Gods Word

Matt 7:21—27 Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and ignores it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash."

Paul on Faith and Works

Eph 2:8—10 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Paul was fighting the problem of legalism -- the problem of: "I've got to keep all the Jewish laws and regulations to be a Christian." Paul is talking to that group. James is not fighting legalism but laxity -- those that say "It doesn't matter what you do as long as you believe."

Review Week one

- Evil...The process was that Our own Desires=Birth to Sin=Full grown=Death
- Trials...The process was that Trials = Perseverance = Maturity
- And we, out of all God's creation, became His

PRIZED POSSESSION

Review Week two

Listening and Doing...

Christian Ethics...First, real religion controls the tongue.

Salvation and Obedience...Second, real religion hears and does Gods Word

Illustration the mirror and the Engrafted Word...

Third, Real religion receives Gods Word.

A Warning against Prejudice

Cultivating to develop and improve faith and works growth...Today it is a Hand tool for delicate work



Faith without Good Deeds Is Dead

James 2:14--20 What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds."

But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds." You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless?

1. Faith is completed and attested by the actions it prompts. Faith without such actions is dead. A Christian is saved and justified before God by faith, but it is a live faith through which God accomplishes His purposes by good works.

A Peanuts cartoon. Charlie Brown and Linus are inside all bundled up and Snoopy's out in the cold shivering in front of an empty dog food bowl. Charlie and Linus are having a discussion on how sad it is that Snoopy is hungry and cold. "He's cold and hungry. We ought to do something about it." They walk outside and say to Snoopy, "Be of good cheer, Snoopy."

2. Faith is a commitment to Christ, depending on Him and not on human achievement for salvation, but also serving Him as directed by His Spirit. Paul and James agreed. They simply emphasized different points in the salvation experience and different components of Christian faith

3. The measure of our faith is NOT our "talk" it is our "walk". Faith is what we do. It is not what we say we will do. Paul Harvey once said, "If you do not live it, you do not really believe it."

The lifestyle of doing reflects the reality of the faith. Everyone places their faith in something or someone. Your faith is only as good as the object in which you place your faith. The Scriptures are clear that we as believers should put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

4. Illustration. One day, a young disciple of Christ desiring to fully receive all that God had for himvisited the home of an elderly Christian. He had heard that this old man had never lost his first love for Christ over all the years. The elderly man was sitting on the porch with his dog taking in a beautiful sunset. The young man posed this question: "Why is it sir that so many Christians zealously chase after God during the first year or two after their conversion, but then fall into a complacent ritual of church once or twice a week and they end up not looking any different than their neighbors who aren't even Christians? I have heard you are not like that. The old man smiled and replied, "Let me tell you a story: One day I was sitting here quietly in the sun with my dog. Suddenly a large white rabbit ran across the field in front of us.

Well, my dog jumped up, and took off after that big white rabbit. He chased the rabbit over the hills with a passion. Soon, other dogs joined him, attracted by his barking. What a sight it was, as the pack of dogs ran barking across the creeks, up stony embankments and through thickets and thorns! Gradually, however, one by one, the other dogs dropped out of the pursuit, discouraged by the course and frustrated by the chase. Only my dog continued to hotly pursue the white rabbit." "In that story, young man, lies the answer to your question." The young man sat in confused silence. Finally, he said, "Sir, I don't understand. What is the connection between a rabbit chase and the quest for God?" "You fail to understand," answered the well-seasoned old man, "because you failed to ask the obvious question.

Why didn't the other dogs continue in the chase? And the answer to that question is **they had not seen the rabbit.**

Beloved unless you see the prize, the chase is just too difficult.

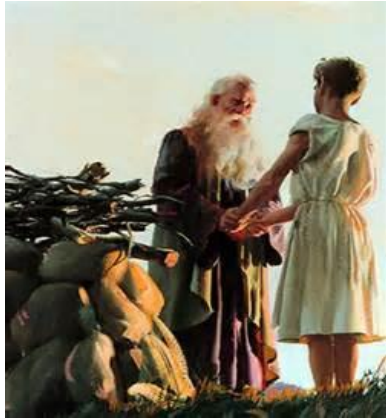
Old Illustration



Term: HANDS ON

THE OBEDIENCE OF ABRAHAM 21-24.

James 2:21—24 Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." He was even called the friend of God. So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone.



Gen 22:3—9 So Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac's shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them walked on together, Isaac turned to Abraham and said, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "We have the fire and the wood," the boy said, "but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?" "God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son," Abraham answered. And they both walked on together.



**Faith and
Works working
together**

Gen 22:9—13 Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. At that moment the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Yes," Abraham replied. "Here I am!" "Don't lay a hand on the boy!" the angel said. "Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son." Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

Hebrews 11 the Hall of Fame of Faith

Heb 11:17—19 When God tested Abraham, faith led him to offer his son Isaac. Abraham, the one who received the promises from God, was willing to offer his only son as a sacrifice.

God had said to him, “Through Isaac your descendants will carry on your name.” Abraham believed that God could bring Isaac back from the dead. Abraham did receive Isaac back from the dead in a figurative sense.

Faith in God brings us salvation. Obedience demonstrates that our faith is genuine or living. His obedience proved that he already was saved because he lived by faith in God’s Word. Abraham’s offering of Isaac was a proof of faith. It was evidence that his faith was alive. Abraham’s deed was an act of faith, for it was his faith that prompted his obedience. His faith was spurring him on to do good works. These works prove the integrity of his faith. These works were the exercising of faith and the result of the works was the perfecting of the faith.

Abraham is noted for being a friend of God. The meaning of the expression seems to be that as a result of faithful obedience concerning Isaac, Abraham was brought into an even closer fellowship with God.

Works cultivates the Growth of Faith to be even deeper

- **THE EXPERIENCE OF RAHAB**

James 2:25—26 Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.

James uses the greatest conceivable contrast in persons possible.

Abraham was a man of noble character had high position - one of the most distinguished men of his time. Rahab, on the other hand, was a woman, a foreigner, a prostitute. James insists, however, that her experience teaches the same lesson as that taught by the experience of Abraham.



Heb 11:31 Faith led the prostitute Rahab to welcome the spies as friends. She was not killed with those who refused to obey God.

Josh 2:18 When we come into the land, you must leave this scarlet rope hanging from the window through which you let us down.

Rick Warren said: Faith is not just something you SAY, not just something you FEEL, not just something you THINK, and more than just something you BELIEVE. James teaches it's also something you DO.

Faith without works is like a screen door on a submarine



Verse 26 sums up the entire discussion. "For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead."

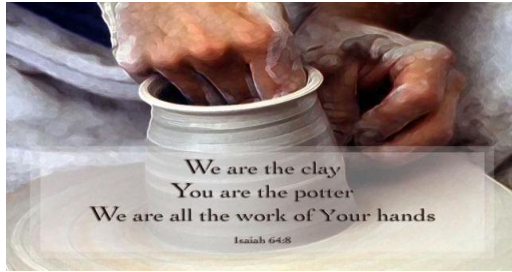
A quote by Billy Graham, who had this to say about faith and works and their relationship to each other: "There really is no conflict between faith and works. In the Christian life they go together like inhaling and exhaling. Faith is taking the Gospel in; works is taking the Gospel out."



A make-believe story is told in a country in which only ducks live. "One Sunday morning all the ducks came into the church, waddled down the aisle and into their pews, and squatted. Then the duck minister took his place behind the pulpit, opened the duck Bible and read, 'Ducks! You have wings, and with wings you can fly like eagles. You can soar into the sky! Use your wings!' All the ducks yelled 'Amen!' and they all waddled home."

Eph 2:8—10 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Conclusion



For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, **we should walk in them.**



Faith and Works working together in your life this week.

Video to see faith and works working together one oar faith the other works

<http://youtu.be/9sJU5MALkgg>

Comments and Question time