

Digging Deeper: James 2:14–26
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Faith Without Works Is Dead

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

¹⁸But 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. ¹⁹You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! ²⁰Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? ²¹Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²²You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; ²³and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.¹

Day 1

This week we will be focusing on faith and works. Read the passage above. What stands out to you as you read? Spend some time defining faith and also works. Now consider faith without works is dead. Spend some time praying about your faith and what scripture is saying to you.

Day 2

Go back and read and study Ephesians 2:1–10. Now consider Paul’s teaching on faith and James’ teaching on faith. Are they in opposition, or are they different sides of the same coin in complete unity with each other?

Day 3

Today, read James 2:15–16. This is an interesting passage in that all of us have or will pass homeless people or people we see in need. What other scriptures would you look to for complimenting what this scripture says. How would you apply these when confronted with the same situation?

Day 4

Today, read James 2:19. Here James is teaching us about what the demons believe and compares that to the “saved” Christian. What do you think God is saying here? Consider the seriousness of Matthew 7:20–21. These together should strike the fear of God in our heart and have us make sure of our election. Today, spend time praying about this.

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jas 2:14–26). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Day 5

Read James 2:20–23. Today, we will consider Abraham. What is the definition of works cited? Go back and read this account in Genesis. What does belief in God lead to? What if Abraham had not been faithful to the command?

Day 6

Today, read James 2:24–25. Find and read the story of Rahab. What is the significance of her actions? How and when would this be considered active works? James finished this section by saying faith apart from works is dead. So again, what is faith, and what are works? Now, look at your own life and gauge your faith and works. Spend time praying today about this.