

James 2:14-26

Real Faith vs. Dead Faith

The passage that we will look at today is one of the most upfront and direct passages in all of the New Testament. While some verses in Scripture cause us to examine our level of faith, this passage forces us to examine whether our faith is even real. While Scripture is clear that salvation comes through faith (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5), Scripture also teaches that genuine faith will be evidenced in our actions.

- > If we “talk the talk” but fail to “walk the walk,” how is our faith described (v. 14-17)? It is considered “dead.”
- > If we know truth about God, but fail to live a changed life, how is our faith described (vv. 18-20)? It is considered “dead.”
- > How is faith without works described in v. 26? It is “dead.”
- > How does Abraham’s faith (v. 23) relate to his works (vv. 21-22)? His works demonstrated that his faith was real.

Application

Our faith is either alive or dead. James shows us that our actions indicate whether our faith is alive and real or dead and non-existent. We may know how to say the right things, but our actions reveal what is truly in our hearts. Consider:

- You may claim to be a Christian, but do your actions reveal you are a true follower of Christ?
- You may say you know God, but do your actions give evidence He is important to you?
- You may say you love God, but do your actions show you desire to submit to Him?

James does not intend to make us doubt our salvation, but he does want us to test ourselves to be sure our faith is real (II Cor. 13:5). Is your faith real? What evidence shows it?

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