

James 2:14-26 (NASB)

¹⁴ What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that? ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself.

¹⁸ But someone may *well* say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." ¹⁹ You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. ²⁰ But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? ²² You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. ²⁴ You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵ In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶ For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

Real Faith

James 2:14-26 is the core of this entire letter. Here James develops his premises; real faith in Jesus produces a real change in the believer's life. To be assured that we have this real saving faith in operation in our lives, James describes two types of faith.

I. James describes d_____ faith. (vs. 14-17)

A. Instruction (vs. 14)

B. Illustration (vs. 15-16)

C. Application (vs. 17)

1. Was there a time in my life when I came to a conscience realization that I was a sinner separated from God?
2. Did I realize that I had no righteousness of my own to pay for my sins?
3. Did I realize that I faced judgment of eternal separation from God?
4. Did I then put my faith only in Jesus' person and work?
5. Following that faith commitment, were there some "unexplained" changes in my life?

II. James describes d_____ faith. (vs. 18-26)

A. Instructions (vs. 18-20)

B. Illustrations (vs. 21- 25)

C. Application (vs.26)

1. Do others notice a change in me?
2. Do I have a new sensitivity to sin?
3. Do I have a new desire for righteousness?
4. Is the Bible more understandable and enjoyable?
5. Is obedience to God a delight or duty?