



JAMES

JAMES 2:14 - 17 *niv*

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?

¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.



JAMES 2:18 - 19 *niv*

But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.



JAMES 2:20 - 21 *niv*

You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? ²¹ Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?



JAMES 2:22 - 24 *niv*

You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. ²⁴ You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.



JAMES 2:25 - 26 *niv*

In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? ²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.



Facts about the Epistle of James

- James is identified as an apostle and brother of Jesus by Paul (Gal 1:19)
- One of the earliest letters written (ca. AD 50-60)
- Themes of James are practical, not theoretical
- James was head of the Jerusalem church



Facts about the Epistle of James

- James contains “high quality” Greek; perhaps the best in the New Testament
- Until at least seven months before Jesus’ crucifixion, James remained doubtful of Jesus’ mission (John 7:3-5)
- James received a special post-resurrection appearance from Jesus (I Cor 15:7)



Facts about the Epistle of James

- Hegesippus wrote that James' prayer life was so fervent and long that his knees became calloused like the knees of a camel (ca. AD 180)
- James was martyred for his testimony of Christ, being thrown down from the temple, stoned, and killed with a club (AD 62-66)
- The letter was written to Jewish Christians of the Diaspora
- James is writing to people who are living under the persecution of the Jews and the iron fist of the Romans



Teaching Slides

You can access the slides from today's service by scanning the QR code at the Worship Center entrances or in your Communicator.

OR VISIT

slides.fellowshipnwa.org



Comparison to Sermon on the Mount

James

1:2

1:4

1:5

1:17

1:20

Teaching

joy amid trials

exhortation to be perfect

asking God for good things

God the giver of good

against anger

Matthew

5:10-12

5:48

7:7-11

7:11

5:22



Comparison to Sermon on the Mount

James

1:22

2:5

2:10

2:13

3:12

Teaching

hearers and doers of the word

poor inherit the kingdom

keeping the whole law

merciful receive mercy

know them by their fruits

Matthew

7:24-27

5:3, 5

5:19

5:7

7:16



Comparison to Sermon on the Mount

James

3:18

4:2-3

4:4

4:9-10

4:11-12

Teaching

blessings of peacemakers

ask and you will receive

serving God vs. friendship with the world

consolation for mourners

against judging others

Matthew

5:9

7:7-8

6:24

5:4

7:1-5



Comparison to Sermon on the Mount

James

4:13-14

5:2-5

5:10

5:12

Teaching

living for today

moth and rust spoiling earthly treasures

prophets as examples and patterns

against oaths

Matthew

6:34

6:19

5:12

5:33-37



Which is it?



Faith or Works?



EPHESIANS 2:8-9 *niv*

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.



ROMANS 3:22 - 24 *niv*

This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.



JOHN 6:47 *niv*

Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.



TITUS 3:4-7 niv

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,
⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done,
but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of
rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on
us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having
been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the
hope of eternal life.



Point of James 2

Man is to represent God in deeds of mercy.



JAMES 2:14 *niv*

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JAMES 2:15 - 16 *niv*

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¹⁶ If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?



LUKE 10:25 - 28 *niv*

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus.

“Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

²⁶ “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

²⁷ He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” ²⁸ “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”



LUKE 10:29 - 32 *niv*

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.



LUKE 10:33 - 35 *niv*

But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said, "and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have."



LUKE 10:36 - 37 *niv*

“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” ³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”



JAMES 2:17 *niv*

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action,
is dead.



I JOHN 3:17 - 18 *niv*

If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.



JAMES 2:18 *niv*

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JAMES 2:19 *niv*

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JAMES 2:20 - 22 *niv*

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Faith brings a person to salvation.
Works bring a person to faithfulness.
Faith is the cause. Works are the effect.



“It is faith alone that justifies,
but faith that justifies can never be alone.”

- *John Calvin*



GALATIANS 2:15 - 16 *niv*

“We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. ¹⁶ So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.”



Faith OR & Works

Not a “Which is it?”

Paul



James



JAMES 2:23 - 24 *esv*

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JAMES 2:25 *esv*

In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?



JAMES 2:26 *esv*

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How do you know if your
faith is genuine?





JAMES