

JAMES 2:14-26

Introduction:

1. Share an experience about a time when you purchased something bogus. How did you feel when you found out? What did you do?
2. Have you ever found something “easier said than done”? What?
3. What are some ways that we as Christians don’t put actions behind our words?

Read James 2:14-26

1. How could this passage be summarized? In order to see that James is not alone in his teaching, compare what Paul, John and Jesus said.
 - Paul (Galatians 5:6)
 - John (I John 3:10,17-19)
 - Jesus (Matthew 7:15-23; 23:31-46)
 - * Are all good deeds evidence of faith in Jesus Christ? Why or why not?
 - * Do good deeds not motivated by faith in Jesus have any value in God’s eyes? Why or why not?
 - * Is there any way to demonstrate true faith other than by deeds of obedience to God? Why or why not?
2. What two examples does James give that illustrate his main point here (v15-16)? Why is this person’s faith considered bogus (fake, false, counterfeit)? What are some other examples of misplaced faith people have today?
3. James clearly teaches that faith without works is dead. Give an example of what a person’s life might look like in one of these scenarios:
 - A person who has faith but no works.
 - A person who has works but no faith.
 - A person who has faith in God and works that grow naturally out of this faith.
 - A person who has no faith and no works.What of these four scenarios best describes where you are in your life right now?
4. Another example of bogus faith is given in v19. What do the demons believe about God? What is wrong with the demon’s faith? How is it like human faith that produces no good deeds?
5. How was Abraham’s faith revealed by what he did (v21-24)? Are you holding anything back from God? Is there anything you would not sacrifice for Him? See Matthew 10:37-39. Describe a time in your life when obedience to God was or could have been a great personal cost to you.
6. How was Rahab’s faith revealed by what she did (v25)? Can you think of any modern day examples of Christians who have cared for others, even at the risk of losing their own lives?

7. How does James closing analogy (v26) summarize his teaching on faith and actions?
8. James is not teaching that anyone can be saved by good deeds. He is saying that when a person experiences genuine saving faith, their transformed life will be seen by others. What is one area where you have seen God changing and transforming your life over the past year?
9. Take a few moments to do this survey. Score yourself honestly from 1-5. A score of 5 would reflect that this statement very much describes your heart and actions. A score of 1 would mean it does not reflect who you are and how you live your life.

	1. You live with an overwhelming sense of gratitude for what Jesus Christ has done for you.
	2. You look for opportunities to tell others about the love of Christ.
	3. You have a strong desire to grow spiritually, and you have a healthy spiritual appetite.
	4. You find yourself moving toward Christian community by developing more and deeper relationships with other followers of Christ.
	5. You see a noticeable difference in the development of your character.
	6. You have an increasing desire to orient your life around God's will and purposes for your life in this world.

10. Review the survey. What is one area where you are presently seeing growth and what has helped to enhance your growth in this area? What is one area you are presently struggling in and you want to develop?

Spend time thinking God for those growth areas in one another's lives and pray for each other about those areas that need to develop.

Questions taken from: James: Live Wisely, Bill Hybels; James: Faith That Works, Andrew & Phyllis Le Peau; and James: Live Change Series, Navigators.