

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

James 2:14-19

You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 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. You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone. 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? As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

James 2:14-26

Paul was working against an overemphasis on
human effort

James was working against an underemphasis on
human effort

“faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead” (v. 17)

“faith without deeds is useless” (v. 20)

"faith without deeds is dead" (v. 26)

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can THAT faith save him?

James 2:14

James is not contrasting two alternative options to relationship with God.

He is contrasting inherently defective faith with genuine faith.

Abraham = the ultimate insider

Rahab = the ultimate outsider

The test was not excessive when you consider the role God had called Abraham to play in human history.

*"Now I know that you fear God..."
Genesis 22:12*

Paul is addressing the timing of saving faith
-Faith comes before works-

James is addressing the outcome of saving faith
-Faith leads to works-

You see that a person is justified by what he does
and not by faith alone.

If faith is traveling alone, it is an imposter.

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 2:25

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith
without deeds is dead.

James 2:26

*The people who should be worried about
this...aren't.*

Hold the mirror of God's word up to your own face.

God's grace gifts + Human faithfulness = Beauty

Godly Sorrow	Worldly Sorrow
Specific	Vague
Against the sin	Against the sinner
Relenting	Unrelenting