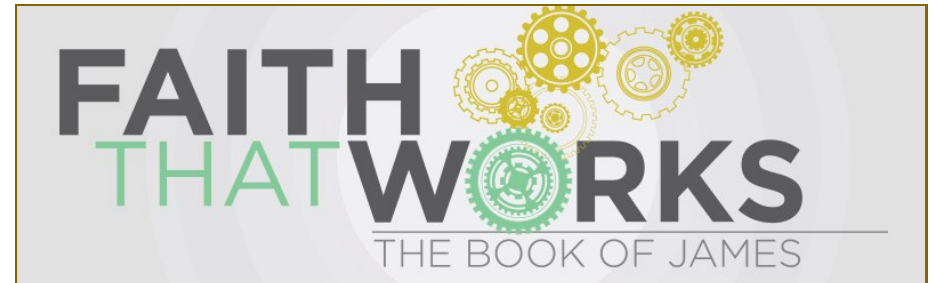


Reflection Questions: What undeniable proof of God's saving work do I see in my life? In the pattern of my life, do my actions vindicate that I do possess saving faith? Explain. How can I reach out to someone in need this week?

How can we pray for one another and our church this week?



#15 Working Faith (2:20-26)

*Sermon
Notes*

June 9, 2019

Quotes to Ponder

The life of faith is more than a private (long past) transaction of the heart with God. It is the life of active consecration seen in the obedience which holds nothing back from God, and the concern which holds nothing back from human need.

J.A. Motyer

Abraham's faith, James suggests, reached its intended goal when the patriarch did what God was asking him to do.

Douglas Moo

Paul is dealing with obstetrics, with how new life begins; James, however, is dealing with pediatrics and geriatrics, with how Christian life grows and matures and ages.

Frances Taylor Gench

The Person who is counted as righteous through faith will do what is righteous.

Sinclair B. Ferguson

Paul said that a man is justified through faith without the works of the law, but not without the works of which James speaks.

Augustine

The grace that does not change my life will not save my soul.

Charles Spurgeon

Man is not justified by faith alone, that is, by a bare and empty knowledge of God; he is justified by works, that is, his righteousness is known and proved by its fruits.

John Calvin

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you?

2. How do some people rationalize inactive faith?

3. How would you answer someone who argued from *James 2:21* that our works play an important part in our salvation (*Romans 3:20; Galatians 3:6-11*)?

4. If genuine faith is proved by works, how many works does it take to prove it? Explain.

How can we have assurance of salvation?

5. What are some illustrations you can use to help unbelievers see that no amount of good works can save them? What Scriptures would you use?

6. What are the dangers when we try to assess the authenticity of another person's professed faith?

7. Can a person be saved apart from Jesus? Were Abraham and Rahab? Explain.

8. When was Abraham first considered righteous (*Genesis 15:1-6*)? Why?

9. Read *Genesis 22:1-18*. How did Abraham's faith and actions work together here?

How was his faith *made complete* by what he did?

10. What does James conclude that Abraham's actions in *Genesis 22* demonstrated (*James 2:24*)? How can this be reconciled with Paul's statement in *Romans 3:28* (cf. *Hebrews 11:17-19*)?

11. Why is it significant that Abraham was called *the friend of God* (*James 2:23*)? What does this mean (*2 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8; John 15:14-15*)?

12. Read *Hebrews 11:8-10*. What does this tell us about Abraham?

13. What is it about Rahab that demonstrated the presence of saving faith in her life (*Joshua 2:1-15; 6:17; Hebrews 11:31*)?

14. Why should Rahab's inclusion in this passage be a great encouragement to us today?

15. Explain the analogy in *James 2:26* and how it represents faith without works.

16. Read *2 Corinthians 13:5*. In light of the reality of dead faith that often masquerades as saving faith, what should professing Christians do?