

Origin

Food4Life
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Believe in Action

James 2:14-26

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.

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.

What is Faith?

- ⇒ Faith is not an *emotion*.
- ⇒ Faith is not an *intellectual concept*.
- ⇒ Faith is an *attitude of the heart* and can only be seen as it influences the actions of the one who possesses it.
- ⇒ Faith begs for *action* – deeds are a natural byproduct of faith.
- ⇒ Faith is to *believe in action*.

James’ Examples:

1. A hypothetical person from his original audience – one who sees a need and does nothing about it = *Dead Faith*.
2. Abraham – when at Mount Moriah he offered his son Isaac on the alter = *Living Faith; faith in action*.
3. Rahab – a pagan – a woman – a prostitute, who gave lodging to the spies = *Living Faith; faith in action*.

What’s the bottom line?

- ⇒ Just like the body without the spirit is dead, faith without *deeds* is dead.
- ⇒ Faith and deeds are *inseparable*.
- ⇒ If there are no acts springing forth from faith, that faith is no more alive than “the body without the spirit” – *a corpse*.