

James 2:14–26



14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Can this kind of faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacks daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, keep warm and eat well,” but you do not give them what the body needs, what good is it? 17 So also faith, if it does not have works, is dead being by itself. 18 But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith without works and I will show you faith by my works. 19 You believe that God is one; well and good. Even the demons believe that—and tremble with fear. 20 But would you like evidence, you empty fellow, that faith without works is useless? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 You see that his faith was working together with his works and his faith was perfected by works. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Now Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. 25 And similarly, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another way? 26 For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.



A Living Faith

1. Define *faith* (2:14) [Gr. *pistis*].
2. Of what value is *faith* without *works* (2:17)?
3. How does James 2:17 describe faith without works?
4. Do the demons really believe (2:19)?
5. How was Abraham justified (2:21)? Compare with Hebrews 11:17.
6. Why was Abraham the friend of God (2:23)?
7. How are we justified by works (2:24)? Does this contradict Romans 5:1?
8. How was Rahab justified (2:24)? Compare with Hebrews 11:31.
9. How does James 2:26 describe “faith without works”?