

FAITH THAT WORKS

AUTHENTIC FAITH: GROWING WITH JAMES THE APOSTLE · JAMES 2:14-26 · JANUARY 26, 2025 · STEVEN JAEHNERT

"As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead." (James 2:26)

Faith is... Active (James 2:14-17)

Faith is... Not Just What We Claim (James 2:14-16)

Not just claiming that "Jesus is Lord"

Faith is... Not Just What We Believe (James 2:15-16)

Royal Law & New Commandment

Faith is... Not Just What We Think or Feel (James 2:18-26)

Faith is... Lived Out (James 2:20-26)

Shared theme of Sacrifice

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think of when have you experienced someone in need, whether physically, spiritually, emotionally, mentally. Did you rise to the occasion? How have you learned from your mistakes?
2. This week we continue our preaching series, "Authentic Faith: Growing with James the Apostle," by exploring James 2:14-26. Whether on your own or with others, begin your study

- in prayer, asking God to speak to you through this study and then read that text aloud.
3. Verses 14 & 17 argue that living out our faith in our actions is a salvation matter. Have you ever thought of this before? What do you think James was going through as a church leader for him to write this part of his letter?
4. In verses 15-16 share a practical example of how sometimes our words are just not enough. Read Philippians 2 alongside this passage and consider this passage in light of the incarnation. How does Jesus' example encourage us to embody our faith?
5. Name other examples of living out faith that are more than speech.
6. In verses 15-16, James describes the Jesus way of viewing the poor. Where else in Scripture might we find this view supported?
7. In verses 18-19, James says that faith is not just about our intellect and emotions. Read Matthew 28:16-20. How do you think intellect and emotions fit into the mission of the church? How is the mission of the church hindered by limiting our faith to these areas?
8. James references the Shema of Deuteronomy 6:4-9, which Jesus also quotes (see Matthew 22:37-40 and Mark 12:29-31). Where do you see the unity of God and the commands that follow it reflect in James' teaching in James 2:14-16?
9. James 20-26 describe events from Genesis 22 and Joshua 2. Read these chapters. Compare Abraham's faith and Rahab's faith. What are you learning?
10. What is one thing God speaking to you personally through this study? If you are with a small group, discuss that with one another and then pray about what you shared. If you are on your own, write it down, pray about it, and share this with someone this week.

DIG DEEPER

This week dig deeper in one or more of the following ways:

- Memorize James 2:14 or 2:17 or 2:26.
- Read more *Word Versus Deed* by Duane Litfin.
- Pray and journal or brainstorm about what you are doing to live out your faith.
- Engage with the church community. Ask how others are thinking about living out their faith.
- Prayerfully read over the Connect, Grow, Serve Brochure or the Events Calendar on the Eastbrook website.
- Proactively research and inform yourself on charitable organizations.

THIS MESSAGE IS AVAILABLE ON THE EASTBROOK APP, ON CD BY REQUEST, OR VIA DOWNLOAD & PODCAST AT EASTBROOK.ORG/JAMES.