



## LESSON 7: JAMES 2:14-26 (STUDENT)

1. What changes did you make as a result of applying last week's lesson?
2. Read James 2:14-26. Summarize this section with one sentence.
3. What is the repeated idea in this section? In what verses do you see it?
4. According to verses 15-19 what does dead faith vs. living faith look like? By this standard, is your faith dead or living?
5. As fellow members of the body of Christ, what is one of our obligations to our brothers and sisters in need (Galatians 6:10)?

A. How are you following this exhortation?

B. If not, how can you begin to interact and support a person in this category?

C. How are you cultivating a sacrificial giving on a daily level? When you see needs, even in your own home, are you meeting them?

D. Name one area that you can serve more sacrificially at home and out of the home.

6. Which group has a type of inoperative faith in verse 19? Look up the following passages to see what was believed about Jesus by this group (Matthew 8:28-29, Luke 8:26-31; Matthew 4:1-9).

7. Verse 20 is quick to remind us that even Satan and demons have an unquestioned belief that God exists and that He is powerful. Interestingly they are even aware that doom awaits them (cf. Matthew 8:29; 25:41; Luke 8:31). But this supposed "faith" does not bring them peace or salvation; it is only orthodox belief at best. People fall into this trap all the time. How does James refer to such persons and why?

8. Who is upheld as the father of faith because he acted on his complete trust in God (v. 21; Genesis 22; Hebrews 11:17-19)?

A. What did he do, and why was it so difficult?

B. How was He able to follow through with his obedience?

\*Note - Verses 22 and 23 might seem confusing and illogical to some, but the Scripture is not contradicting itself.

- James 2:23 and Romans 4:2-5 speak to how Abraham was made right before God (called "justification by *faith*").
- Verse 22 speaks to how Abraham's faith was perfected (matured) by His works before men (called "justification by *works*"). This was addressed by Paul in Ephesians 2:10.

9. Like the term ascribed to Abraham in verse 23, how does Jesus refer to true believers in John 15:14)? What is characteristic of them?

10. Who is the next example of faith that was accompanied by works? \_\_\_\_\_. What did she believe about God in Joshua 2; and how did she act as a result of what she believed about the God of Israel?

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Abraham's and Rahab's justification by works was not demonstrated by their profession of faith, their worship or ritual, or any other religious activity. In both cases it was demonstrated by putting everything that was dear to them on the line for the Lord entrusting it to Him without qualification or reservation. They were supremely committed to the Lord, whatever the cost."<sup>1</sup>

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11. Make of List of 20 things you believe to be true about God. How do these beliefs cause you to live for God "without qualification or reservation"?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.

12. The last verse of this section (v.26) makes a physical comparison to a spiritual comparison. What are they, and what is the link?

The \_\_\_\_\_ is to the \_\_\_\_\_ (in the physical realm),  
as \_\_\_\_\_ is to \_\_\_\_\_ (in the spiritual realm).

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<sup>1</sup> MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1998). *James*. MacArthur New Testament Commentary (141–142). Chicago: Moody Press.

Without one, the other is dead.

#### APPLICATION

Martin Luther once said that "If works and love do not blossom forth, it is not genuine faith, the gospel has not gained a foothold..."

- Has the gospel gained a foothold in your life?
  
- What have you learned about the dangers of a profession of faith without works? What about the dangers of only doing good works?
  
- Are there some areas in your life where you have the knowledge, but resist acting on your knowledge?
  
- Is your faith mere orthodoxy and not true, saving faith?

Confess this to the Lord right now. Pray for His strength to do what He has called you to do. Go and act on your faith; then share it with someone.

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"O it is a living, quick, mighty thing this faith; so that it is impossible but that it should do all good things without intermission. It does not ask whether good works are to be done, but before the question could be asked it does them, and is always doing them. He who does not these good works is a man without faith...Yea, it is as impossible to separate works from faith, as impossible to separate burning and shining from fire."

—Martin Luther

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