

Studies In The Book James Faith In Action!

Lesson 12

Read James 2:14 – 26

Introduction: It takes two oars to row a boat. If you have only one, all you will do is row yourself in circles. But with two oars, you can row anywhere you want to. Faith and works are companions that work together. Faith produces the works; works demonstrate the genuineness of the faith. Whatever you believe will show itself in the things you do. For example, if someone goes forward and receives Jesus Christ, his life will be changed. If someone says they went forward, but leave and go right back into the sin they knew before, you can tell they didn't really receive Christ. Their words meant nothing. James tells us that, "Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead" (James 2:17).

Pastor Chuck Smith

1. If I say I have faith, but my life does not correspond to that which I profess, can the faith that I say I have save me?
 - What did Jesus say in Matthew 7:24 – 27 and in Luke 6:46 – 49 about building on a good foundation?
 - According to Matthew 7:15 – 23 what did Jesus mean when He said *by their fruits you will know them*?
 - What did Jesus make clear about bearing fruit in John 15:1 – 6?

2. What example does James give to us about a faith that works and what was his conclusion according to James 2:15 – 17?

- What are four practical ways we can show our faith to those in need?

1)

2)

3)

4)

Faith will always lead to action because faith works! My works are the evidence of a life saved by grace through faith in Christ alone.

3. What was James' rebuttal about faith and works according to James 2:18 – 20?

- According to James 2:19 what was James' point about the *demons believe and tremble*? (Refer to Matthew 8:28 – 29)

4. Compare James 2:21 – 24 with Romans 4:1 – 25. List the differences you see with James conclusions verses the apostle Paul's position:

James

Paul

- What did the apostle Paul say in Ephesians 2:8 – 10?

5. Read the story about Rahab in Joshua 2:1–21. According to James 2:25 – 26 how was Rahab justified in her faith?

- What was James' final strong conclusion about faith and works according to James 2:26?

6. What is your understanding about faith and works? Were James and Paul on the same page in their teachings or were they opposites in their theology?