

A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES

Genuine Faith

II THE DISTINCTIVES OF GENUINE FAITH - James 1:19 - 5:6

LESSON 5 - Faith Proves Itself by Works - James 2:14-26

KEY VERSE

Thus also faith² by itself, if it does not have works, is dead (James 2:17).

PONDER³

READ James 2:14-26.

WRITE the *word, phrase, or verse* that spoke to you the most. Explain. _____

FAITH AND WORKS

READ James 2:14-18.

1. What profound questions does James pose to believers in Christ (v. 14)? _____

2. What example does the Apostle⁴ use to prove what genuine faith is (vv. 15-17)? _____

¹ Genuine: authentic, real.

² faith - Greek *pistis* persuasion: conviction of religious truth: the truthfulness of God, reliance of Christ for salvation; constancy in such profession; truth itself: assurance, belief, believe, fidelity.

³ PONDER: think about and consider carefully God's spiritual truths as revealed in the Word of God.

⁴ Apostle - Greek *apostolos* a delegate: ambassador of the Gospel; officially a commissioner of Christ with miraculous powers; he that is sent.

If you say that you have faith in Christ but you don't help a brother in need how is your faith described (v. 17)?

3. How does James address the belief that some may have faith yet others may have works (v. 18)?

LOOK DEEPER

What do the Scriptures reveal about faith?

Romans 10:17 _____

II Corinthians 5:7 _____

Hebrews 11:1 _____

I John 5:4 _____

PERSONAL

What important fact did you learn about faith? How can you apply this truth in your life? _____

EVIL SPIRITS BELIEVE

READ James 2:19, 20.

1. Besides believers, who also believes that there is one God (James 2:19, 20)? _____

⁵ demon - Greek *daimon* : inferior spiritual being; angels who did not keep their proper domain (Jude 6), ministers of the devil.

LOOK DEEPER

What did the following demon possessed men cry out concerning Jesus when He walked on this earth? Underline the title that each used to address the Son of God. How did Jesus command them? How did it affect those who stood nearby?

Matthew 8:28-34 _____

Mark 1:21-28 _____

Mark 3:7-12 _____

Luke 4:40, 41 _____

ABRAHAM’S FAITH

READ James 2:21-24.

1. How was Abraham justified⁶ by his works (v. 21)? _____

⁶ justified - Greek *dikaioo* to render: show or regard as just or innocent; free; justify; be righteous.

LOOK DEEPER

READ Genesis 22:1-19.

God tested Abraham's faith. What did He ask him to do (vv. 1, 2)? _____

DESCRIBE what Abraham did that proved his faith in God (vv. 3-10). _____

How did God act on Abraham's behalf (vv. 11-19)? _____

How did Abraham respond? _____

2. How was faith made perfect in Abraham's life (James 2:22)? _____

3. Why was Abraham called the friend of God (v. 23)? _____

4. How is man justified? How is faith tested (v. 24)? _____

RAHAB'S FAITH

READ James 2:25, 26.

1. How was Rahab's faith proved before God and man (James 2:25, Hebrews 11:31)? _____

LOOK DEEPER

READ Joshua 2:1-15.

What were Rahab's actions that proved her faith in the God of the Hebrews children (vv. 1-8)? _____

What did she declare about God that proved her faith in Him (vv. 9-11)? _____

What did she request of the spies? What did they promise her (vv. 12-15)? _____

What was her last act of courage? _____

PERSONAL

In what way has God tested your faith in Him by courageous works you performed placing your faith in God?

WRITE out the KEY VERSE _____

*For as the body without the spirit is dead,
So faith without works is dead also.*

James 2:26

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