

PRESSURE POINTS: Saving Faith Goes Beyond Thoughts & Theology

Andy Deane · 9/22/2024 · James 2:14-26

What we say isn't actually proof for what we believe. It's what we do that shows what we believe the strongest! James questions the reality of a faith that is void of good works.

James 2:14-17, 14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

#1 Saving Faith Goes Beyond JUST WORDS to provide for real needs we discover:

- Faith treats family in Christ as real family.
- Faith meets a real need, not a luxury.
- Faith-filled words alone don't help.

James 2:18-19, 18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

#2 Saving Faith Goes Beyond GOOD THEOLOGY to become visible to others:

- Theology that is good, but not visible, can't be proven.
- You can go to hell with good theology.
- Even demons had a little visible reaction.

James 2:20-24, 20 You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? 21 Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. 24 You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

#3 Saving Faith Goes Beyond PERSONAL FEELINGS to act with sacrificial obedience:

- Faith obeys God when feelings tell us not to.
- Faith obeys God by working together with physical actions.
- Obedience perfects faith, allowing us to see God's work (don't miss it!).

James 2:25-26, 25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? 26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

#4 Saving Faith Goes Beyond OUR PAST to embrace a new life & community in Christ:

- Our past doesn't disqualify us from God's blessing.
- We must leave our past to join God's family.
- Faith acted on is rewarded by God.

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