

Problem:

Paul - Rom 3:28; 4:1-25 Salvation is by faith alone- James tells us we need works 2:14-26 how can this be?

video: you do the math

Main idea:

Real faith works - knowing Christ personally affects your life visibly

Text:

Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead

James 2:14 ¶ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has **faith** but does not have **works**? Can **that faith** save him? (*that faith = the kind of faith that does not have any works*)

James 2:15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food,

James 2:16 and one of you (*persecuted and poor*) says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

James 2:17 **So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.**

— are you DOER of the Word - James 1:22; 1 John 3:17-18?

-I have a song you can sing - "if every member was a member like me - what kind of church would we be?"

you can know a person **knows** Jesus by fruit - Matt 7:15-27 (23);

-knowing about Christ does not save - Knowing Christ does, and it not only saves but it impacts your life now

-if someone had to convict you of KNOWING Jesus by your life, could they? what would they point to?

-> James is continuing his point from 1:22, to be doers of the Word. the kind of faith that doesn't result in works is not the kind of faith that saves.

Faith apart from works is useless

James 2:18 ¶ **But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works."** Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will **show** you my faith by my works.

James 2:19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

James 2:20 **Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?**

demons hold it -Mark 1:24; 5:7; Acts 16:17; 19:15 -all true

*Faith apart from works - John 8:31-59 (55) you have not **known** Him-*

-> we demonstrate our beliefs by our behavior. the kind of belief that doesn't affect our behavior is useless or ineffective.

Faith apart from works is dead

James 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?

James 2:22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;

James 2:23 and the Scripture was **fulfilled** (*the faith that saves is never alone*) that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God. (*faith alone*)

James 2:24 You see (*audience*) that a person (*their faith*) is justified (*validated*) by works and not by faith alone. (*a persons faith is justified*)

James 2:25 And in the same way (*shocking- opposite*) was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

James 2:26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also **faith apart from works is dead.**

Eph 2:8-10 We may be saved by faith alone but the faith that saves is never alone. In other words, Good works cannot produce salvation but salvation certainly produces good works

Gen 22:9-12 (believed God when threatened with the loss of his child)(Moriah)(30 yrs later)

*22:12 - **know** intimately acquainted with your fear of God -yada yada yada*

on that very spot His own son was offered

validated his original faith—> 15:1-6 (believed God when he was childless)

quoted by Paul to prove faith alone -

God expected the experience of Abraham's new nature

-> The example of Abraham and Rahab serve to show the for all people personally knowing God is what makes us bear fruit. Abraham's faith was validated or vindicated for our benefit and God experienced the fruit of this faith.

Here we turn to the second meaning of justify as "vindicate." The Expository Dictionary of Bible Words (Zondervan) says:

It is not beyond our efforts to resolve the apparent conflict between Romans and James. Consider the following: James does not teach that Abraham was pronounced righteous on the basis of his actions. James teaches that Scripture's announcement that Abraham was righteous is vindicated on the basis of Abraham's subsequent obedience. He did right because God's action actually worked within him to make him righteous! James is speaking of two kinds of faith, only one of which is saving faith. He teaches that saving faith will be vindicated by the actions that flow from it and in this sense complete it.

What is particularly significant to us here is that James joins Paul in suggesting that justification is something more than a judicial declaration. True, in response to faith, God does declare sinners acquitted and righteous before Him; but He does more than that. God acts within the believer to make righteousness a reality. Thus the Gospel offer of salvation by faith includes more than a pardon: it also includes a transformation. God will declare the sinner righteous, and then God will act to make the sinner what God has declared him to be.

The kind of faith which saves also transforms, and that transformation will show up in the lifestyle of the true believer.

Implication:

2 Cor 9:8

a real changed life comes from actually KNOWING Christ - a real invitation to a real changed life

Application:

only one application and its not about adding works to your faith if they are not there.

examine yourself (2 Cor 13:5-7)

James is concerned with the kind of faith we have...

He is not saying that if you lack works but believe in Christ then just add works to your lifeless faith and your good - NO

He is saying that if you don't have works you don't know Christ, you don't have real faith - the solution then, is not adding works to dead faith the solution is actually knowing Christ

Action:

Do you know Christ? (John 17:3) are you claiming to KNOW Him or just claiming to know of Him? Don't deceive yourself - look for His real actual impact on your life.