

THE FAITH THAT SAVES

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INTRODUCTION

- A. TEXT: *"What doth it profit, my brethren, if a man say he hath faith, but have not works? Can that faith save him?"* (v. 14).
1. The way we usually use this passage.
 - a. As an argument against "Faith Only".
 - b. Make the argument. This is a good and true argument.
 2. We use this passage in showing the 'plan of salvation'.
- B. THE SETTING:
1. James is writing to Christians.
 2. He is talking about 'everyday living.'
 3. He is talking about our 'bearing fruit' and God's people.
- C. WE WANT TO GIVE THE PASSAGE A CLOSER LOOK TODAY.
1. So many say they have Faith.
 - a. James is saying "Prove It".
 - b. James is saying "Show Your Faith By The Way You Live!"
 2. He gives us a test.
 3. We need to "test" ourselves by what James says.
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EXAMPLES OF FAITH

- A. HIS FIRST EXAMPLE.....**ABRAHAM!**
1. The early life of Abraham.
 - a. God's promise.
 - b. Isaac is born. How does this show Abraham's faith?
 2. LATER IN HIS LIFE.
 - a. God told Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice.
 - b. Did Abraham have Faith?
 3. We Know He Had Faith, By What He Did! (Gen. 22:9-12).
- B. HIS SECOND EXAMPLE**RAHAB!**
1. What she did.
 - a. She hid the spies from the king.
 - b. Let them down by a rope from Her window.
 - c. She risked her life because *"For Jehovah your God, He is God in Heaven above and on earth beneath."* (Joshua 2:11).
 2. Did she have faith? WE KNOW SHE DID Because of her actions.
 - a. Her works alone or faith alone did not save her....
 - b. Her deeds... motivated by her faith is what saved her!
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HEBREWS 10:39

- A. *“But we are not of them that shrink back unto perdition; but of them that have faith unto the saving of the soul.” (Heb. 10:39).*
1. In this verse we read of the kind of faith that saves.
 2. Bible students know that the 11th chapter of Hebrews is a historical picture of the conduct of faith.
 3. We should remember that the last verse of chapter 10 introduces this as “faith unto the saving of the soul”.
 4. WHAT DOES THIS KIND OF FAITH DO???
- B. IT SACRIFICES LIKE ABEL DID. (Heb. 11:4; Gen. 4:1-8).
1. How did he sacrifice?
 2. How much?
 3. He did as God directed.
- C. IT WALKS WITH GOD LIKE ENOCH DID. (Heb. 11:5,6; Gen. 5:24).
1. To “walk with” Demands agreement. (Amos 3:3).
 2. This Implies that...He Walked Where God Directed.
- D. IT HEEDS THE DIVINE WARNING LIKE NOAH DID: (11:7, Gen. 6-7).
1. Noah believed that God could and would.
 2. Followed the pattern exactly.
 3. Christ is returning...Are you in the Ark of Safety?
- E. THIS KIND OF FAITH OBEY GOD LIKE ABRAHAM DID. (Gen. 12).
1. Leave all....Are we willing to leave the world?
 2. Go Where.....Are we willing to go where God directs.
 3. Offer thy son....How much do we love God?
- F. DELIBERATELY CHOOSES GOD’S WAY LIKE MOSES DID!
1. Gave up the pleasure of sin. He made a deliberate choice, knowing the cost.
 2. We cannot follow God accidentally.
 3. Christianity is a deliberate life.
 4. A saving faith causes us to choose God above every thing else.
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CHRISTIANS TODAY

A. REMEMBER...It was to Christians that James Addressed this Epistle.

1. So many lay claim to Christianity.
2. Become a little like the Jews of old.
3. Made claims and an outward show.

B. JAMES GIVES US A TEST TO PROVE OURSELVES!

THE TEST

A. WHAT IS PURE RELIGION?? *“Visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction,..”* (James 1:27).

1. The word “Visit”.
2. It means....”To take care of”. To supply their needs.
3. If you are not caring for them....you do not have the saving faith!

B. *“If a brother or sister be naked and in lack of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Go in peace, be ye warmed and filled; and yet ye give them not the things needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it have not works, is dead in itself.”* (James 2:15-17).

1. Not enough to say, “be thou filled...”
2. Or, I wish yo had something better...

C. UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT... OUR FAITH IS DEAD....
VAIN....FRUITLESS!

CONCLUSION

A. HOW ABOUT US TODAY? ARE WE GUILTY OF HAVING A DEAD FAITH?

1. We say NO!.
2. Our faith is alive.
3. Where are OUR WORKS?
4. What are we doing besides saying “I am a Christian”.

B. *“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deluding your own selves.”* (James 1:22).

1. May we all have the saving faith that Experiences God’s Deliverance and Victories like the Israelites and these men and women of faith had!
 2. May we all be able to say: *“...we are not of them that shrink back unto perdition; but of them that have faith unto the saving of the soul”*.
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