

Faith That Works

Is Authentic in Every Way

9/30/07



Text: James 2:14-26

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

¹⁸But 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. ¹⁹You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! ²⁰Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? ²¹Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²²You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; ²³and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.” (ESV)

1. F _____ FAITH – v.14-20

A) ALL TALK – v.14

B) LITTLE TO NO C _____ – v.15-17

C) SHALLOW C _____ – v.18-19

2. AUTHENTIC FAITH – v.20-26

ABRAHAM –

RAHAB –

SO....

Two things are clear from Scripture:

1) Salvation is by faith alone (what the reformers of the sixteenth century labeled “Sola fide”).

2) Salvation is by a faith that is NOT alone.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION THOTS

How are there ways we can give back to others in response to His abundant grace? (E.g. – Look for a single parent to help....deliver food stuffs to various shelters....)

Check out Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 “parable of the sower.” Which soil is commended and why?

Where there is true salvation, where His sovereign grace reaches down to regenerate and transform, God will create a longing to forsake sin and desire to honor Him through obedient living. Where do you find Scripture to support this? (Hint – see Luke 19; Acts 19; 1 Thessalonians 1, et al).

What lesson(s) can be learned in the episode of Simon the Magician (Acts 8)? Perhaps Matthew 7:21 and Titus 1:16 can help....

“It costs us nothing to become a Christian but everything to live fully as one.”

Agree/Disagree? Why?

Abraham is a giant in the Bible. He was tested throughout his spiritual pilgrimage. From the following passages 1) identify the “test” and then 2) state the point of needed application for his life.....and yours. ☺

Genesis 12:1-7

Genesis 18:1-8

Genesis 13:8-13

Genesis 18:22-23

Genesis 14:17-24

Genesis 20:1-17

Genesis 15:1-6

Genesis 22:1-12

Genesis 15:7-11

CLOSING “Word” - Matthew 5:16 – “...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”