

HOW TO HAVE REAL FAITH **Developing a Faith That Works**

James 2:14-26

*"Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by actions, is dead."
(James 2:17)*

I. WHO IS RIGHT - JAMES OR PAUL?

Paul (Gal. 2:16)	&	James (Jas. 2:24)
Problem: "Legalism"		"Laxity"
"WORKS" Jewish laws		Christian lifestyle
Focus: "Root of salvation" (internal/unseen)		"Fruit of salvation" (external/seen)
Purpose: How to <u>know</u> I'm a Christian		How to <u>show</u> I'm a Christian

*"For it is BY GRACE you have been saved THROUGH FAITH ...
FOR a life of GOOD WORKS which [God] has already prepared for
us to do." Ephesians 2:8-10 (GNT)*

II. WHAT IS REAL FAITH?

1. REAL FAITH IS NOT JUST SOMETHING YOU SAY.

*"What good is it, my brothers, if a man CLAIMS to have faith,
but has no deeds? Can such "faith" save him? (vs. 14)*

*"Not everybody who says to me 'Lord, Lord' is going to enter
into the kingdom of heaven..." Matthew 7:21-23*

2. REAL FAITH IS NOT JUST SOMETHING YOU FEEL.

*"Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food.
If one of you says to [him], 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and
well fed,' but does nothing about [his] physical needs, what
good is it?" (vs. 15-16)*

*"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in
need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in
him?" 1 John 3:17. Also see (3:14-16; 4:7-20).*

*"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by
Action[s], is dead." James 2:17 (NIV)*

3. REAL FAITH IS NOT JUST SOMETHING YOU THINK.

*"But someone will say, 'You have faith - I have deeds.' SHOW
ME your faith without deeds, and I will SHOW YOU my faith by
what I do." James 2:18*

*"Any time a person becomes a Christian he becomes a new
person inside; the old things have passed away. All things
become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17*

4. REAL FAITH IS NOT JUST SOMETHING YOU BELIEVE.

*"You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons
believe that -- and shudder!" James 2:19 (NIV)*

5. REAL FAITH IS SOMETHING YOU DO!

Illustrations: Two very different people.

* Abraham (vs. 20-24)

* Rahab (vs. 25)

*"Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test
yourselves..." 2 Corinthians 13:5 (ESV; NIV)*

I'd love to hear your stories & feedback: phoebegdial@gmail.com

