



“Drawing From the Well”

“Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” Isaiah 12:3

Womens Ministry of Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship

JAMES 2:14-26

Lesson 7

“Doing ‘penance’ without truly repenting and trusting God’s mercy only multiplies the sin and deadens the conscience.

Thinking they were good enough to please God the people asked Jesus, ‘what shall we do, that we may work the works of God?’

He replied, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent’ (John 6:28-29).

True saving faith comes from a heart that’s been broken in repentance and realizes that no amount of good works can atone for sin.” Warren Wiersbe

DAY ONE: Review & Overview

1. In what way did last week’s study on God’s *mercy* from **James 2:1-13** affect your life this week?

2. In what way has **James 2:1-13** affected your attitudes and actions toward the following:
 - a. **The poor**

 - b. **The rich**

 - c. **Thy neighbor**

3. Prayerfully read **James 2:14-26** looking for key words. Remember to ask the questions “*who, what, where, when, why and how*” as you read. List key words or phrases in the chart below, then title **James 2:14-26**.

James 2:14-18	James 2:19-20	James 2:21-26
Segment Title		

4. Some people say they are Christians but their works do not substantiate their claim. It is important that each of us know our faith is genuine. Certainly we don't want to be deceived about this extremely vital issue. The difference between professing faith and authentic saving faith can be recognized through understanding this passage. Spend some time before the Lord and ask Him to give you insight into this passage.

5. There are two questions we all need to ask ourselves: As you answer, find Scripture to back it up.
 - 1) Can a man have faith and not do good works?

 - 2) Can faith without good works save a man?

6. In Scripture we see over and over again how action follows faith, but faith does **not** follow works! Look up the following Scriptures and comment.
 - a. **Luke 9:23**

 - b. **Luke 14:26-27**

 - c. **1 Timothy 6:17-18**

 - d. Can you think of others?

DAY TWO: James 2:14-18

1. Prayerfully read **James 2:14-18**.

2. What are the two types of faith James discusses in **James 2:14-20**.
 - a.

 - b.

3. Just professing to be a Christian isn't enough to produce salvation, nor does doing good works without the right motive. What did Jesus say must accompany our profession of faith to prove we have faith that saves in **Matthew 7:21-23**?
 - a. What does Jesus say about the wise man in **Matthew 7:24-29**?

4. Take a look at **Titus 1:16** TLB.

“Such persons claim they know God, but from seeing the way they act, one knows they don't. They are rotten and disobedient, worthless, so far as doing anything good is concerned.”

 - a. What do you think the danger is of such a false profession to the:
 - 1) Testimony of Christ

- 2) Testimony of the Church
- 3) Person making the claim
- 4) What can be done to counteract these problems?

Note: In **Ephesians 2:8-9**, Paul clearly states that salvation is not obtained through works. James clearly states that works will accompany salvation. These two writers do not contradict one another but their writings complement each other. Paul identified the *root* of genuine faith – *belief in Jesus Christ*; James identified the *fruit* of genuine faith – *love and works*.

5. In **James 2:14c** the statement “*can faith save him?*” is referring to man’s kind of faith, not true faith in Christ which produces a transformed life and out of which flows good works. It is not what we say we have, it is what we do that proves our faith. James is not referring to Christians who are deficient or weak in works but to one who has no works whatsoever from his life. How would you explain the relationship between faith and works to one who says he/she has faith but has no works?
6. How do the following passages amplify the teaching of **James 2:15-16**?
 - a. **Luke 10:30-37**
 - b. **1 John 3:16-18**
 - c. How did James say faith could be *seen* in **James 2:18**?
7. Record the *instructions* we are given concerning works in the following scriptures:
 - a. **Matthew 5:16**
 - 1) Who will be glorified by our good works?
 - b. **Colossians 1:10**
 - c. **Titus 2:7-8**

- d. **Titus 2:14**
 - e. **Titus 3:8**
 - f. **Hebrews 10:24**
 - g. What are some practical ways you can do this?
8. Throughout the letter of James, hypocrisy in the lives of its readers (*hearers*) is exposed. How does the lack of *good works* in one professing *faith* reveal hypocrisy?
 9. End your study today by meditating on **1 Corinthians 3:1-3**. *Selah!*

DAY THREE: James 2:19-20

1. Prayerfully read **James 2:19-20** and then look up what James was pointing to in **Deuteronomy 6:4**. Because the Jews believed that there is one God, James commended them. However, to make his point that just believing in God is not enough, who else did James say believed?
 - a. What else does this verse say these do?
 - b. What does **Matthew 8:29** show us about what they believe? Why is fear the result of this kind of belief?
2. The demons have intellectual belief. If you were asked to explain the difference between intellectual faith (unbelief) and saving faith (belief) to someone who believes there is a God, how would you respond?
3. According to **James 2:20** what does the *vain* (foolish) man need to know?
 - a. Using your study tools, look up the definition for *dead* (#692) and record your findings.
 - b. What is the danger of believing (*intellectual knowledge*) in God but not giving your life to Him as **Lord** according to **Romans 1:21**?
4. Summarize what you learned this week about the following kinds of faith:
 - a. **Professing faith**

b. *Intellectual faith*

c. *Saving faith*

5. In relationship to **James 2:14-20** do an acrostic or acronym for the word faith:

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DAY FOUR: James 2:21-26

1. Prayerfully read **James 2:21-26**. Abraham and Rahab are used in this passage to illustrate the principle of **James 2:14-20**. These two examples of genuine faith evidenced by works present a striking contrast of *character, culture, and class*. Observe this by writing the two-word description following their names in these verses.
 - a. Abraham _____
 - b. Rahab _____
2. How was Abraham's faith *justified by his works*? Or how were Abraham's works demonstrated to be genuine according to the following verses?
 - a. **Genesis 22:1-19**
 - b. **James 2:21b**
 - c. According to **Romans 4:1-3** when was Abraham justified? See also **Genesis 15:6**.
 - d. When were *we* declared righteous or justified according to **Romans 4:5**.
3. Forty years after Abraham believed in the Lord (**Genesis 15:6**) he was confronted with a crisis that through his obedience confirmed his faith. James states in **verse 21** that Abraham's offering of Isaac is a work. What does the writer of **Hebrews 11:17-19** declare about this?

- a. What does James want us to see in **James 2:22** that reconciles *works* and *faith*?
 - b. How does our obedience to God's commands demonstrate our *genuine faith*?
4. Why is it important that believers understand clearly the relationship between *faith* and *works*?
- a. What does **2 Corinthians 13:5** tell us to do?
5. Abraham's offering of Isaac verified **Genesis 15:6**. He believed God. He believed and acted upon God's promise. **Hebrews 11:17-19**...*His belief was not merely in what God said but his faith was centered in the very character of God.* And his trust in God's promise was credited or counted (imputed) to him for righteousness. It has been said that **Genesis 15:6** *finds its ultimate significance and meaning in Abraham's life of obedience.* Think of the following statement in relationship to **James 2:23**: *Had there been no works, Abraham would not have been justified; the reason would be that the absence of works would indicate that he had no real faith.* With this in mind explain why there is no contradiction between **Romans 4:3** and **James 2:21**.
6. An important foundational truth is that it is *all* by **His grace!** Look up the following verses as they relate to salvation and service and record the truth of each verse.
- a. **Romans 4:16** (Salvation)
 - b. **Ephesians 2:8-9** (Salvation)
 - c. **Hebrews 12:28** (Service or Works)

*“Both in Abraham’s day and the present,
a man can only be justified through true faith in Jesus Christ
which will manifest itself in our Christlike works.”
Pastor Chuck Smith*

DAY FIVE: James 2:25-26

1. After walking with Abraham (of Jewish heritage), the great man of faith and the Friend of God, we're not quite prepared for our encounter with Rahab, the Gentile harlot. Prayerfully read **Joshua 2:1-24** and **Joshua 6:1-25** to get a clearer picture on Rahab of Jericho.
 - a. From **Joshua 2:9-11** record what Rahab believed about God that moved her to hide the spies.
 - b. Whose lives were spared because of her faith in action according to **Joshua 2:12-18**.

c. What does **Hebrews 11:31** add to this scenario? Notice Rahab is commended for her *faith*, not her immorality.

1) What do the following verses reveal about Rahab's life after being spared?

a) **Joshua 6:25b**

b) **Matthew 1:1-6**

c) Whose mother did she become according to **Ruth 4:21-22**?

2. What token did the spies give Rahab to save her family according to **Joshua 2:12-18**?

*“Abraham’s faith held nothing back from God.
Rahab’s faith held nothing back from human need.”*

Challenge: How does **James 2:14-26** relay the principle taught in **James 2:1-13**?

*“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”*
Ephesians 2:10

3. Select a few of the following verses (all if you have time) and state what they reveal about works that are consistent without faith:

a. **Titus 3:1**

b. **Titus 3:8**

c. **Titus 3:14**

d. **Hebrews 10:24**

e. **1 Peter 2:12**

4. Summarize the relationship between *faith and works* in your own words.

Personal: Do your *works* reflect your *faith*? What particular thought or scripture from this lesson will help you with this?

5. Complete this lesson by reading **1 Corinthians 3:12-15** and comment on how these verses speak to you.

*“Let none hear you idly saying ‘There is nothing I can do,’
While the world around is dying and the Master calls for you
Take the task He gives you gladly, let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly, when He calleth, ‘Here am I,’ send me, send me.”*
Daniel March