

The Power of the Works of Faith

(NKJV) Jas 2:14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?

17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

18 But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God. 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

- I. We must learn the difference between the works of faith by the law and works of faith by the Spirit.
 - A. Paul and James both speak of faith and works. They may seem to contradict each other but they do not.
 - B. Paul speaks of the works of faith by the law produce by the energy of the flesh.
 - 1. Faith in the works of the law is dead
 - 2. These works are no good and have no saving power
 - 3. No one is saved by works of faith by the law.
 - 4. The works of faith by the law have been completely fulfilled through Christ.
 - C. One is now saved by faith in Christ alone who has fulfilled the works of faith by the law.
 - 1. But the fruit of salvation are works of faith by the Spirit manifesting itself by words of love.
 - D. James speaks of the works of faith by the spirit produce by the energy of the spirit
 - 1. These works of faith by the spirit have the power of God backing them
 - 2. these are works of love and are the fruit of salvation

- E. A person is saved by faith alone and that faith will produce works of love powered by the Spirit of God
 - 1. there are two kinds of faith
 - a. dead faith with no works of love by the spirit
 - b. live faith with works of love revealing the spirit

THE WORKS OF THE LAW CANNOT SAVE AND NEITHER CAN FAITH WITHOUT WORKS OF LOVE!

- II. Works are required with faith
(NKJV) Jas 2:14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?

17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

TRUE FAITH IS MANIFESTED BY ITS WORKS

- A. True Faith is shown by works! If you say you believe in God you must do things by works that prove what you say is in your heart. What is the effect of words and no actions?

15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?

- B. Faith that is expressed by words alone makes no distinction between demons who also have faith but have no ability to do works.

- 1. A person that cannot move forward constructively and aggressively manually doing things based upon his faith does not have faith at all.
- 2. Demons have faith in God that he exist but they will never act on that faith because they believe only.

18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

- C. If a person who truly believes, and has faith, he will exemplify his faith by the actions he takes because of his faith.

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

(NKJV) Heb 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," 19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

- D. It is not enough to just believe God! You must act on your faith!

1. So many people believe they don't have to do anything except believe.
 2. For this reason, many do not even receive God's best.
- E. God does not reward his servants who do not exemplify their faith by their life.
- GOD DOES NOT REWARD HIS SERVANTS WHO DO NOT EXEMPLIFY THEIR FAITH BY THEIR LIFE**

(NKJV) Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

1. How are you seeking him? What are you doing?
 2. You cannot say you believe and then act a fool saying your faith has saved you. God has made it perfectly clear that the wages of sin is death.
 3. True faith in Christ will reveal itself in the type of life you live.
- F. Too many scriptures reveal we must take action to reveal our true faith in God.
- (NKJV) 1 Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**
- (NKJV) Ga 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.**

(NKJV) Heb 6:10 For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

(NKJV) Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

(NKJV) Heb 11:8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

(NKJV) Heb 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

(NKJV) Heb 11:24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. 27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them. 29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. 31 By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace. 32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: 33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

(NKJV) Re 2:19 “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.

The quality of life in this church was not diminishing. They were continuing to grow in their good deeds, for “your last works are greater than the first.”⁵ Most likely, this is intended both quantitatively and qualitatively: There were more good deeds and they had more impact than when Thyatira was a young church. This is high praise indeed.

III. Faith without works is dead. God rewards faith!

A. God responds to our acts of faith.

WHEREVER FAITH IS IN ACTION GOD WILL BE IN ACTION

B. Think about this:

1. Name situations where faith was manifest and see the hand of God also manifest.

WHERE THERE ARE WORKS OF FAITH THE HAND OF GOD IS REVEALED

IV. Remember: **For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.**

- 1.
- 2.

FAITH EXEMPLIFIED BY YOUR WORKS WILL REVEAL YOUR JEHOVAH JIREH