

The BOOK of JAMES

WHAT VIBRANT *faith* LOOKS LIKE

Key Scriptures

James 2

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. 20 You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless [d]? 21 Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," [e] and he was called God's friend. 24 You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone. 25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? 26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Faith & Works

James 2:14-26 shows us that faith and actions work together. In a world where people are scattered and opinions so often cause division, we have the opportunity as believers to have a living faith that works for the good of all, right now. It's impossible to have solid faith without solid works. Let's be a church with a living faith, and say yes to both!

Think about it.

The three main points from last weekend's sermon:

- **We need to have a living faith with our words.** Let's share what God has done in our lives. When we share our stories, our faith in God will give people hope for their situation. A vibrant faith speak life not death.
- **We need to have a living faith with our works.** Let's do good to others through outreach, Acts of Kindness, and Serve projects. This is our response to what God has done in our lives: walking out our faith with our actions towards others.
- **We need to have a living faith with our worship.** Let's make ourselves available to be used by God and shine a light on His goodness. We glorify Him by living a generous life.

Share your insight.

1. How does separating faith from actions limit the way we live out our faith, both personally and with others?
2. In what ways has saying "yes" to both faith and actions made a difference in your life? How has it allowed you to make a difference in the lives of others?
3. What are some practical ways you can put your faith into action in your community this week, both individually and as a group.

Pray for one another.

- Ask God to help you identify the work He has set for you and do it; but be bold to ask Him the stuff you do that He didn't ask you to do, and surrender it.
- Pray this corporately:
Jesus, thank You for saving us. We recognize that we didn't do anything to earn our salvation, and we are grateful for Your grace for us. We want to honor You by having a living faith. Help us take what You have done in our lives and put it into action to make a difference in the world around us.