Your Daily Appointments With God

MONDAY
Read James 2:14-16. Obedience in the book of James is relational. So, how do you relate to a brother or sister in the church who is in need? Words are not enough. We cannot simply say, "Go in peace. God will provide," when God has provided us the means to help that brother or sister. How do you define a "real living faith?"

TUESDAY
Read James 2:17. How can we learn to better express our faith through our works while protecting ourselves from the deception that our works save us?

WEDNESDAY
Read James 2:18. What is the main point James is making? How do we show our faith by our works? The key point is that not just any faith will save. Genuine faith, *saving* faith, is characterized by good works. Likewise, works are only good works if they spring from faith. Faith and works are inseparable.

THURSDAY
Read Ephesians 2:10, 1 Thessalonians 1:3, 1 Timothy 5:25, and Titus 2:14. Why are good works so important? Paul was not against good works per se. He was against works as a means of salvation *(see Gal. 2:16).* In fact, Paul said that those who rely on works of the law to be saved are under a curse, because no one who tries to be saved by keeping the law actually succeeds in keeping it (Gal. 3:10). Obedience is possible only through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

FRIDAY
Read 2 Corinthians 4:2; 1 Timothy 2:4; James 5:19, 20; 1 Peter 1:22; and 1 John 3:18, 19. What do these verses tell us about how important knowing truth is? There is no question that an intellectual knowledge of truth has its place, a very important place. Yet, that knowledge, in and of itself, is not sufficient to prove that a person has saving faith. What warning is given to us in James 2:19 about a false concept of what true faith is?

Presented by Jeff Rosenthal, Lead Pastor **11/07/2026**

Faith That Works in a Fractured World!

Part 6 – James 2:14-20

Intro: In Part 6, we'll see what James has to say about ***faith*** and compare it to what the apostle Paul says about ***faith.***
• These are some of the most misunderstood passages in the book of James. Every cult tries to use these passages to prove that you have to work your way to heaven. So it's important to understand what we're studying today.

➢ *Let us look only to Jesus, the One who began our faith and who makes it perfect*. Hebrews 12:2 (NCV)

I. The New Testament Teaches We Are Saved By Faith Alone

➢ *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;* vs. 9, *not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.* vs. 10, *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."* Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)

A. There are Three Prepositions in this passage – "*by* _____", "*through* _____", "*for* _____."
• If you get those out of order, you're in trouble. If you think you're saved by works, for faith you're in trouble. Paul is saying we are saved by accepting God's free gift – " . . . *saved through faith*; . . ."

B. James is not fighting legalism but a _____ (a take it for granted faith or even a "*cheap faith*" – like "cheap grace") – to those that say, "It doesn't matter what you do as long as you believe."
• They (James & Paul) are fighting two different enemies. Yet they both use the word "_____" or "deeds" in different ways.
• When Paul uses the word, "works" he's talking about _____ like circumcision. When James uses it, he's talking about the _____ of a Christian - acts of love (love as a verb – an action word). It's totally different.

➢ *"What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone?"* James 2:14 (NLT)

C. James, for example, describes the kind of faith that equals nothing. He calls it _____ faith in verse 17, in verse 20, James says it's "_____" and at the end of the chapter, in verse 26, he calls it again "dead" faith.

-Continued inside-

➢ *"Someone might say, "You have faith, but I have deeds." Show me your faith without doing anything, and I will show you my faith by what I do."*
James 2:18 (NCV)

D. The apostle Paul focuses on the _____ of salvation – what happens to me _____.
- James focuses on the fruit of salvation – what happens on the _____.
- Jesus said in Matthew 7:20, ***"By their fruits you will know them."***

E. So Paul is talking about, "How to _____ you're a Christian."
- James is talking about, "How to _____ you're a Christian."
- Paul is talking about his passages on faith alone, how to _____ a believer.
- James talks about, how to _____ like a believer. It's not a contradiction.

F. It's important to remember that the whole of the epistle written by James is a series of tests by which you can evaluate whether your faith is a living faith or whether it is a dead faith.
- The FIRST test was the test of _____. In chapter 1, verses 2 through 13. Your response to trials is an indicator of dead faith or living faith.
- The SECOND was the test of _____. Where you place the blame in temptation is an indicator of living faith or dead faith.
- The THIRD as the response to the Word that comes at the end of chap. 1.

G. James gives us "Five Steps" or "Principles" in these verses.
- FIRST: A REAL, LIVING, ACTIVE FAITH IS NOT JUST SOMETHING YOU _____.
- Vs. 14 (NLT) says, *"What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone?"*

H. SECONDLY, A REAL, LIVING, ACTIVE FAITH IS NOT JUST SOMETHING YOU _____.
- James gives an illustration in vs. 15 (NLT) says, *"Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing,* vs. 16, *and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?*

I. THIRDLY, A REAL, LIVING, ACTIVE FAITH IS NOT JUST SOMETHING YOU _____.
- Yet James says to the intellectual objector in vs. 18 (NLT), *"Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds."*

➢ *"Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds."* Vs. 18 (NLT)

J. Real faith is _____. You can see it! If you claim to be a Christian, people will see it because "*we are His workmanship.*"
In Greek it's *poeima*, literally "a work of art" a display for God!
- Faith is odorless, weightless, and invisible so anybody can claim to have it. How do you know for sure? James says, "_____."

K. FOURTH, A REAL, LIVING, ACTIVE FAITH IS NOT JUST SOMETHING YOU _____.
- Vs. 19, *"You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror."*

L. The word, "believe" in vs. 19a in Greek means "to trust in, to cling to, to rely on, to commit yourself completely." I'm a Christian because I believe in Jesus. Yet, it's more than just head knowledge. You say, "I believe in God." James says, "*Good for you*!"

➢ *"The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." . . ."* Ps. 14:1 (NKJV)

M. So a real, living, active faith is not just something you say or think or feel or believe, what is real faith?
FIFTH, A REAL, LIVING, ACTIVE FAITH IS SOMETHING YOU ___!
- Vs. 20 (NLT) says, "*How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless?"*
- James as the leader of the Jerusalem Church describes three kinds of faith. 1) There is a dead or _____ faith (vs. 20), 2) There is demonic faith (vs. 19), 3) There is _____ faith (in vss. 21-26).
- James uses the word, "*useless*" which literally means "without work."

N. Ellen White says, "We need the faith of Abraham in our day, to lighten the darkness that gathers around us, shutting out the sweet sunlight of God's love, and dwarfing spiritual growth. Our faith should be prolific of good works; for faith without works is dead. Every duty performed, every sacrifice made in the name of Jesus, brings an exceeding great reward. In the very act of duty, God speaks and gives His blessing."
(EGW, The Signs of the Times, May 19, 1898)

O. **"Faith That Works in a Fractured World"** means living a real, active, vibrant and practical faith that is part of your everyday lifestyle of service!
- **Being a "*Doer of the Word, not just a Hearer*."**