Your Daily Appointments With God

MONDAY
Read James 5:19-20. There is no question that an intellectual knowledge of truth has its 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?

TUESDAY
Read James 2:21-24 and compare it with Romans 4:1-5, 22-24. How is the faith of Abraham described in these texts, and on what is justification based? Interestingly, both James and Paul quote Genesis 15:6, but they seem to arrive at opposite conclusions. According to James, Abraham was justified by works, but Paul seems, in Romans 4:2, to deny this possibility explicitly (compare vs. 24).

WEDNESDAY
Read James 2:25; Joshua 2:1-21. Rahab was not saved because of her dishonesty but in spite of it. She believed in the true God, and she acted on that faith by protecting the spies that Joshua sent out. There were also conditions. What were the conditions? Far from perfect, Rahab's life is a model of faith that shows the reality of God's forgiveness and grace for everyone willing to step out in faith.

THURSDAY
Read James 2:24-25. Many stress the importance of faith *and* works, but even this separates the two, at least to some extent. True faith is faith working through love (Gal. 5:6, NKJV). Good works are not just the outward sign of faith; they are the *outworking* of faith. What is your own experience with how works (or the lack thereof) impact your faith?

FRIDAY
Read James 2:26. How does this text summarize the relationship between faith and works? A harlot saved by faith? If that were the only example of salvation by faith we had, what false conclusions could we draw from it? Nevertheless, what hope can you take from her story for yourself?

Presented by Jeff Rosenthal, Lead Pastor **11/14/2026**

Faith That Works in a Fractured World!

Part 7 – James 2:21-26

Intro: In Part 7, James reveals why a "*living faith*." is so important versus a dead faith by using examples of Biblical heroes of faith.

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

I. In Review, James Has Three Characteristics Of Dead Faith

A. Number one: An empty _____.
- Verse 14 (NLT), "*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?"*

B. Number two: James says a dead or useless faith is indicated by a false _____.
- Vs. 15 (NLT), *"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?* vs. 17, *So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless."*

C. Number three: A dead or useless faith is a _____ conviction.
- Verse 19 (NLT) says, *"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."*

D. James sets out to illustrate what he is saying with two popular figures in Jewish history. They are contrasting individuals – one is a *patriarch* of the Hebrew people; the other is a *questionable, foreign,* woman.
- Both illustrate by their lives and actions that faith and good deeds _____ be separated.

➢ *"Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?* vs. 22, *You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete.* vs. 23, *And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." He was even called the friend of God."* James 2:21-23 (NLT)

E. Therefore, our faith is not determined by what we do, it is _____ by what we do.

-Continued inside-

F. Our daily faith is demonstrated by our _____.
- Actions speak louder than words. Our behavior shows what we really believe.
- 2 Corinthians 13:5 (NKJV) says, *"Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith. . . ."*

G. James has shown us what "dead faith" is; now he wants to show us by contrast what "living faith" is.
- He makes his point of what constitutes living faith, by using Two illustrations and One analogy of a "living faith."
- Number one: _____.
- Vs. 21 (NLT) says, *"Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?*

➢ "*Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?"* James 2:21 (NKJV)

H. In verse 21 (NKJV) James says this about Abraham, "*He was justified by works,*" the word "justified" has two general meanings.
- Number one: It means to acquit or to treat as _____.
- Number two: It means _____, or to demonstrate as righteous.

I. Definition number one is what Paul uses in Romans 4:3 (NKJV), "*For what does the Scriptures say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness*."
- Definition number two is what James uses in vs. 21; he was *accounted or vindicated*, *to be righteous* in the act of a willingness to sacrifice his son.

J. What Paul says is Abraham wasn't justified by works before God; he was justified by faith not works!
- Paul tells us in Galatians 3:11 (NKJV), "*No man is justified by the law. The just shall live*" - by what? – "_____."

K. "There are conditions to our receiving justification and sanctification, and the righteousness of Christ . . . while good works will not save even one soul, yet it is impossible for even one soul to be saved without good works." (Ellen White, *Faith and Works*, p. 111)
"While God can be just, and yet justify the sinner through the merits of Christ, no man can cover his soul with the garments of Christ's righteousness while practicing known sins or neglecting known duties.

L. God requires the entire surrender of the heart, before justification can take place; and in order for a man to retain justification, there must be continual obedience, through active, living faith that works by love and purifies the soul." (ibid., p. 100).

M. The second illustration is a powerful contrast in _____.
- Vs. 25, *Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road*."

N. Verse 25, "*Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her* _____ . . ." WHY?
- *". . . she hid those spies and sent them safely away by a different road."*

O. This woman of the night - Rahab demonstrated her faith in God's purpose for Israel. As a result, she and her family were _____ when the city was destroyed.

P. James then concludes with a final analogy. Abraham, Rahab, and the analogy of a _____.
- Vs. 26 (NLT) says, *"Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works."*

Q. John Maxwell in his Leadership Bible, writes that there are **Six Pictures/ Six Principles** to support James' teaching:
- ***Picture One:*** *The rich and the poor* (vv. 1-4)
  Selfish motives _____ a servant's ministry.
- ***Picture Two:*** *The legalist* (vv. 9-13)
  Following rules cannot save us, but following _____ can.
- ***Picture Three:*** *The hypocrite* (vv. 14-17)
  A lifestyle that costs nothing is worth _____.
- ***Picture Four:*** *The foolish man* (vv. 18-19)
  A faith that's only in my head is _____.
- ***Picture Five:*** *Abraham* (vv. 21-23)
  Faith justifies the leader (the believer); works justify the faith.
- ***Picture Six:*** *Rahab* (vv. 25, 26)
  A worthless past is resolved by a present that works.

R. "**Faith That Works in a Fractured World**" for James means, we are not justified by what we do. **True faith** always results in **good deeds,** but our deeds do not justify us. Faith brings us salvation; active _____ demonstrates that our faith is genuine.
- If someone watched your life this week, would they see believable faith in you? We're called to be "Doers of God's Word, not just a Hearer!"