

# Women's Bible Study

October 10, 2018

## **Faith and Deeds**

James 2: 14-18

**James 2: 14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?**

The faith James is referring to is not used in the sense of genuine, saving faith. Rather, this kind of faith is useless and dead. It is mere intellectual acceptance of certain truths without trust in Christ as Savior. James is saying, that a man is justified (declared righteous before God) by faith alone, but not by faith that is alone. Genuine faith will produce good deeds, but only faith in Christ saves. (NIV Study Notes)

So this leads me to ask: What types of faith are there?

**Faith by mere head knowledge** – You can know the history of Jesus's life, but it is simply head knowledge. Head knowledge does not mean you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation.

**Temporal Faith**- meaning that you can pray for safe travel for your loved one, but when they arrive safely at their destination, there is no need to continue to pray for their safety. Financial faith is when you are facing money problems, etc. This is temporary faith.

**Genuine Saving Faith** – Trusting in Jesus Christ alone for your eternal life. “For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” Romans 10:10

Strong's Greek Dictionary defines faith (in Greek: pistis) as a conviction based upon hearing; firm persuasion, trust, credence (mental acceptance as true or real), assurance

**Ephesians 2:8-10** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this is not from yourselves, but the gift of God, not by works, so that no one may boast. **For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

Showing your faith in God requires that you do deeds for God alone, not as a personal show of greatness.

**Galatians 5:5-6** But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

**Matthew 7:24** Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

**Romans 10:9-10** That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

**James 1:22-25** Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says, Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that

gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it – he will be blessed in what he does.

What is the perfect law? “The moral and ethical teaching of Christianity, which is based on the Old Testament moral law, as is embodied in the Ten Commandments, but brought to completion (perfection) by Jesus Christ. Obeying the moral law gives the Christian the joyous freedom to be what he was created for.” (NIV Study Notes)

**James 2:15-17** Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

**1John 3:17-18** If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

**Matthew 25:31-46** When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

**“The King will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’**

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

**“He will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’**

“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

**Luke 3:11** John answered, “The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same.”

**James 2:18** But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

“The false claim here is that there are “faith” Christians and “deeds” Christians, that faith and deeds can exist independently of each other.” But James denies the possibility of this. (NIV Study Notes)

Hebrews 11 tells us how “faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” The faith and actions of Abel, Noah, Moses, Abraham, Enoch, and many more pleased God.”

James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

Application:

Is there an example to follow: There are many examples in the Bible of those who put their absolute faith in the Lord, but the one that stands out to me is Abraham. He was willing to sacrifice his son for the sake of his faith. Trusting in the Lord with all our heart, soul and mind, as Abraham did, is my example to follow.

Is there a Promise to Claim: Keeping my focus on the needs of others and then following through with action. “In Acts 16, Paul gives us a great reminder to make sure we are thinking of others, even in the midst of suffering. In this chapter, Paul and Silas are imprisoned for their faith, when suddenly an earthquake shatters, the chains of the prisoners fall, which opens up a way for them to escape. The jailer, believing that he had failed at his job, prepares to end his life, but Paul stops him. Even in a first century prison cell, Paul thought of the effect his escape would have on the jailer, and that proved the goodness of God to the jailer. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God.” Abide

Verses to memorize: 1John 3:18 “let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” James 3:13 Who is wise and

understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

Sin to avoid: Do I use words of encouragement but neglect to do anything practical to help people in need? What is my goal? Is it to serve God or to impress others?

Command to obey: Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Condition to meet: Staying in God's word daily and glorifying God in all that I do.