

Bible Study 5 - James 2:14-26

Faith Without Works (2:14-17)

1. Verses 14 & 17 best encapsulate James' main point in this section of his letter. What is his main point?
2. Does he mean that works need to be added to faith, or that works should naturally grow from faith?
3. Why is faith without works dead (v.17)?

Response Of A Critic (2:18-20)

4. In verse 18 James begins a brief conversation with an imaginary opponent. 'You have faith and I have works,' the opponent says. In other words, some people have faith and others have works, but both aren't necessary. How does James describe somebody who thinks like this (v.20)?
5. What is James argument in these verses?

6. As people who claim to be believers, what challenges should we take from these verses as we examine our own faith and lives?

Examples Of Abraham & Rahab (2:21-26)

7. James now uses the examples of Abraham and Rahab to illustrate his point. What were 'the works' that showed that both Abraham and Rahab had faith in God?
8. Can you think of another passage in Scripture that mentions both Abraham and Rahab and commends them for their faith?
9. What do you think the phrase means which says that Abraham's 'faith was completed by his works' (v.22)?
10. Verse 24 has caused significant confusion among Christians, because it seems to contradict Paul's teaching that we are justified by faith alone. How do you explain verse 24 and the apparent contradiction?
11. As you think through this study, what lessons will you be praying into your life?