

# A Faith That Works is a Faith that **WORKS.**James 2

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?... faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless." James 2:14 &17 (NLT)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. **Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)** 

Paul focuses on the root of salvation – what happens to me internally. James focuses on the fruit of salvation – what happens on the outside.

Paul is talking about "How to know you're a Christian." James is talking about "How to show you're a Christian."

Paul talks about, "How to become a believer." James talks about, "How to behave like a believer." It is not a contradiction.

## **5 KEYS TO A FAITH THAT REALLY WORKS:**

### 1. A FAITH THAT REALLY WORKS IS NOT JUST TALK.

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)

#### 2. A FAITH THAT REALLY WORKS IS NOT JUST A FEELING.

Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, 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? James 2:15-16 (NLT)

So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. James 2:17 (NLT)

#### 3. A FAITH THAT REALLY WORKS IS NOT JUST INTELLECTUAL.

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." James 2:18 (NLT)

# 4. A FAITH THAT REALLY WORKS IS NOT JUST BELIEVING.

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. James 2:19 (NLT)

## 5. A FAITH THAT REALLY WORKS IS SOMETHING I DO.

Illustrations: Two very different people:

- Abraham (James 2:20-24)
- Rahab (James 2:25-26)

God saved you by his grace when you believed. ...For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. **Ephesians 2:8-10 (NLT)** 

Going deeper on your own. Read James Chapter 2 slowly and out loud. You will notice that the chapter is basically broken down into two sections. First, it talks about our relationship with people. Then, how to demonstrate our faith by our actions. Review the message notes. After doing so, write out one thing you could do this week to purposely live out your faith in how you love other people and go do it. Write Pastor Jay at <a href="mailto:igy@centerpointchurch.com">igy@centerpointchurch.com</a> and tell him how you lived out your faith this week.