

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; 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.

James 2:14-17 (NIV)

Real Faith

There are two things about which I don't want you to be confused. What are they? **You know that my salvation is a free gift. You know that you cannot earn or in any way merit your salvation. You know that you cannot make yourself acceptable in my sight. My Son came into this world to die and pay for your sins. In faith you turned from your sins and accepted Him into your life as your Savior and Lord.** Yes, your Son, Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior. He forgave my sin and cleansed me of all my unrighteous. He made me acceptable in your sight. **Yes, He did. This is first of all what I want you to be clear about.** I understand. By faith Jesus Christ is my Savior and Lord. By faith you are my God and Father. By faith I know that I am filled with your Holy Spirit. What else do you want me to be clear about?

Your faith in me is real and alive and active. Your faith in me will show itself to the world. How will my faith in you show itself to the world? **I will be working in and through your life everyday. I will open your eyes to what I want you to see. I will open your ears to what I want you to hear. I will open your heart to what I want you to do. Because of your faith in me you will want to do what I ask of you. Because of your love for me you will want to do what I have given you to do for me. You will want to go where I send you. You will want to do what I ask of you. Does this sound like a hard and burdensome task to you?** No, not at all, it will be my pleasure and joy to serve you. I want to be used by you. I want to bear an abundance of fruit for your kingdom. I want to bring glory to your name. **Yes, I know that is what you want to do for me. You will bear an abundance of fruit for my kingdom and bring glory to my name, as your faith in me is real and alive and active.** This is very clear to me. This is the desire of my heart that is filled with real faith in you. **That is very good.**

Lord, I want my faith in you to be real and alive and active. I want my faith in you to be demonstrated to the world. Open my eyes to see how you want to use me. Open my heart to do good deeds you have given me to do. Draw others to you through my faith. Amen

If *Claims To Have Faith*

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; 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.

NIV James 2:14-17

If *Say You Have Faith*

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? 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? So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

NLT James 2:14-17

If *Say You Have Faith*

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

NRSV James 2:14-17

If *Profess To Have Faith*

What is the use (profit), my brethren, for anyone to profess to have faith if he has no [good] works [to show for it]? Can [such] faith save [his soul]? If a brother or sister is poorly clad and lacks food for each day, And one of you says to him, Good-bye! Keep [yourself] warm and well fed, without giving him the necessities for the body, what good does that do? So also faith, if it does not have works (deeds and actions of obedience to back it up), by itself is destitute of power (inoperative, dead).

AMP James 2:14-17

If *Says He Has Faith*

What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

NASB James 2:14-17

If *Says He Has Faith*

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

ESV James 2:14-17

If *Says He Has Faith*

What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

NKJV James 2:14-17

If *Merely Talking About Faith*

Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, "Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you? Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?

MSG James 2:14-17

If *Saying That You Have Faith*

Dear brothers, what's the use of saying that you have faith and are Christians if you aren't proving it by helping others? Will that kind of faith save anyone? If you have a friend who is in need of food and clothing, and you say to him, "Well, good-bye and God bless you; stay warm and eat hearty," and then don't give him clothes or food, what good does that do? So you see, it isn't enough just to have faith. You must also do good to prove that you have it. Faith that doesn't show itself by good works is no faith at all—it is dead and useless.

TLB James 2:14-17

If *Say They Have Faith*

My brothers and sisters, if people say they have faith, but do nothing, their faith is worth nothing. Can faith like that save them? A brother or sister in Christ might need clothes or food. If you say to that person, "God be with you! I hope you stay warm and get plenty to eat," but you do not give what that person needs, your words are worth nothing. In the same way, faith that is alone—that does nothing—is dead.

NCV James 2:14-17

Claims To Have Faith

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

If – James 2:14-17

In Context: Read James 2

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: *(What is God speaking to your heart?)*

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; 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. James 2:14-17

Considering The Words: *(What words speak to your heart?)*

What good | is it, | my brothers, | if | a man | claims | to have | faith | but has | no deeds? | Can | such faith | save him? | Suppose | a brother | or | sister | is without | clothes | and | daily food. | If one | of you | says | to him, | "Go, | I wish | you well; | 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. James 2:14-17

Praying The Scripture: *(What prayer from your heart will you write?)*

Lord, I want my faith in you to be real and alive and active. I want my faith in you to be demonstrated to the world. Open my eyes to see how you want to use me. Open my heart to do good deeds you have given me to do. Draw others to you through my faith. Amen

What It Means: *(What questions speak to your heart?)* (Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)

Why would anyone ever claim to have a faith that was not real and alive?

What good is a faith that is not demonstrated by an abundance of accompanying good works?

What good works has the Lord done through your life because of your faith in Him?

How has the Lord used your good works to demonstrate your faith and draw others to Him?

How attractive is a real and alive and active faith to those who don't know the Lord?

When have you walked right by an opportunity to demonstrate your faith in the Lord to others?

How are you watching for opportunities to do good deeds and demonstrate your faith to the world?

Living It Out: *(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)*

Allow the Lord to work through your life so that your faith will be alive and demonstrated to others in the world.

Seeing It Happen: *(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)*

Have faith that the Lord will work through your life in ways that will demonstrate your faith to the world.

Get Ready To Share: *(What can you share with others from your heart?)*

Share with another person or your small group how the Lord is working through your life and demonstrating your faith.

Close With Prayer: *Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May your faith in the Lord be alive and demonstrated by the good works He does through your life.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will allow you to work through my life today so that my faith in you can be demonstrated to the world.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how do you want to work through my life today to demonstrate to the world that I have real faith in you?
