

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)

What Good?

What good is your faith in me? That seems like an odd question. **I will ask you some more questions, so it does not seem so odd to you. How has your faith in me changed your life? How are you now different because you have faith in me? What are you now doing that you would not be doing if you did not have faith in me?** Now, I understand where you are headed with this line of questioning. You could have asked, "How is my faith in you observable?" Or you could have asked, "How can others see that I have a vibrant faith in you because of the way I think and speak and act?" **Yes, those are two very good questions as well. How will you answer my questions?** I will tell you one thing without a doubt. **What's that?** I wouldn't be having this conversation with you if I did not have faith in you. Nor would I be writing about our conversation. So, I could also say, I would not be living in an intimate relationship with you if I did not have faith in you. **Yes, that is quite true. What else?** I can't think of one thought or word or action of my life that has not been touched or changed or transformed because the life of faith I am living with you. You have changed the entire course of my life. My former way of thinking and speaking and acting is long gone. Those who knew me back then, before I came to have faith in you, would not recognize me today. Every day, as I have lived a life of faith in you, you have been molding and shaping my life. I'm as sure as I can be that you are not finished with me yet. **No, my work in and through you will continue until the day you come to live forever in heaven with me.** Well, that is another thing, I should mention. **What's that?** You have continually asked me to go and do things for you. You have worked through my life so that I can bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. I know without a doubt, there is no sitting around, doing nothing, on this journey of faith I am on with you. **That's true.** And I will keep on saying yes to you. I will keep on going and doing whatever you ask of me. **That will be very good.** So, what good is my faith in you? Living a life of loving and following and serving you is the goodness of the faith I have in you. **Good answer.** Thank you, Lord.

Lord, I want my faith in you to be living and active. I want others to be able to see my faith in you as I go and do whatever you ask of me. I want my faith in you to bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. Use my faith in you in your service. Amen

Promises*What Good Is It?*

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

Promises*What Good Is It?*

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

Promises*What Good Is It?*

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

Promises*What Good Is The Use?*

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

Promises*What Good Is It?*

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

Promises*What Good Is It?*

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

Promises*What Does It Profit?*

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

Promises*Do You Think You'll Get Anywhere?*

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

Promises*What's The Use?*

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

Promises*What Good Is It?*

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

What Good Is It?

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Promises – 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 (NIV)

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 (NIV)

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

Lord, I want my faith in you to be living and active. I want others to be able to see my faith in you as I go and do whatever you ask of me. I want my faith in you to bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. Use my faith in you in your service. Amen

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

Why would be it very dangerous for someone to think that a faith without action is authentic?

Why is true faith in the Lord not simply mentally agreeing to a set of facts about Him?

How is your faith in the Lord changing all your thoughts and words and actions?

How has your faith in the Lord changed the entire course of your life?

How can people tell that you have a vibrant faith in the Lord by observing what you do for Him?

How has your faith in the Lord caused you to go and do something for Him?

How is your faith bearing fruit for the kingdom and glory of God?

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

Allow your faith in the Lord to be living and active as you go and do all that He asks of you.

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

Have faith that the Lord will cause your faith in Him to be living and active.

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

Share with another person or your small group how your faith in the Lord is living and active.

Close With Prayer:

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

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

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

What Good Is It?

James 2

Year ____ Week ____ Day ____ Date ____

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 you have a faith that is living and active that causes you to go and do good what the Lord asks of you.

Prayer To Carry

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

Lord, help my faith to be living and active today so I can go and do what you ask of me.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how will my faith in you be living and active today as I go and do what you ask of me?
