

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. James 2:14-17 (NKJV)

Take Action

My faith in you requires that without a doubt. **Your faith in me requires what, without a doubt?** My faith in you requires me to take action. **What kind of action does your faith in me require of you?** I'm not sure where to begin and where to end in answering that question. Actually, there is no end to answering that question. My faith in you requires something every day. That something is new and different and unfolding every day as I love and follow and serve you. To begin my journey of faith with you, I turned away from my old life of sin. I stopped living according to the principles, patterns, and values of this world. I traded in an earthly perspective for a heavenly perspective. I stopped trying to store up treasure on earth. I stopped living for the applause of the world. My focus was taken off myself and the things of this life. My heart and mind and life are now focused on you. I am following you to where you lead me. I am doing what you ask of me. You have been molding and shaping my life as I have lived with and for you. You have given me new thoughts to think, words to speak, and actions to take. You have placed new desires in me. **What new desires have I placed in you?** You have given me the desire to serve you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. I am now at your service. My faith in you is living and active. I want to be able to know and do your will. **What is my will for you?** You want me to become like you. You want me to love like you loved. You want me to give like you gave. You want me to serve like you served. **Yes, this is my will for you.**

So now, my faith in you is taking action. I will no longer ignore those who are in need. I will no longer walk right on by those who are suffering. I will allow you to use me to love and serve others. As I take action, I know that I will be bearing fruit for your kingdom and bringing glory to your name. As I take action, I know that I will be a bright and bold witness for you in the world. As I take action, I know that I will be storing up treasure in heaven with you. This is the desire you have placed in my heart and mind and life. This is the life you have called me to live. This is what faith looks like. It requires me to take action. **Yes, it does.** This is what I will do. **That will be very good.**

Lord, my faith is not theoretical. My faith is not simply accepting theological doctrines. My faith has turned my life around and changed my perspective. My faith in you has transformed my thoughts, words, and actions. Now it is my desire to help others in need. Amen

The Compassionate Life *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

The Compassionate Life *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

The Compassionate Life *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

The Compassionate Life *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

The Compassionate Life *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

The Compassionate Life *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

The Compassionate Life *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

The Compassionate Life *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

The Compassionate Life *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

The Compassionate Life *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 Does It Profit?

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

The Compassionate Life – 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 *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. James 2:14-17 (NKJV)

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

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. James 2:14-17 (NKJV)

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

Lord, my faith is not theoretical. My faith is not simply accepting theological doctrines. My faith has turned my life around and changed my perspective. My faith in you has transformed my thoughts, words, and actions. Now it is my desire to help others in need. Amen

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

Why does saving faith consist of far more than accepting a set of theological doctrines?

How has your faith transformed the way you think and speak and act in life?

How has your faith changed your heart and mind giving you the desire to help others in need?

When has your faith caused you to take dramatic action to help someone in need?

When have you deeply regretted not helping someone who was in need?

How are you making it your priority to go out of your way to help people who are in need?

What is the surest sign that a person’s faith is not alive and genuine?

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

Make sure that your faith is alive and proved genuine by helping others who are in need.

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

Have faith that your faith will lead you to want to help others who are in need.

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

Share with another person or your small group how your faith has led you to go out of your way to help others in need.

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... _____

What Does It Profit?

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 your faith be alive and cause you to do good works.

Prayer To Carry

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

Lord, my faith in you is alive and causing me to do good works for you in this world.

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 lead me to do good works for you in this world?
