

BIBLE STUDY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Faith at Work:

5 Follow up Questions:

1. How is God calling you to put your faith to work in your local church?
2. How is God calling you to put your faith to work in your family?
3. How is God calling you to put your faith to work at your place of employment?
4. How is God calling you to put your faith to work in your community?
5. What radical step of faith is God calling you to make in this season of your life's journey to move out of your comfort zone?

NEW HOPE MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH
SOUTHFIELD, MI

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2022

7:00PM

VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

Faith At Work!

Bible Study:

James 2:14-26

Introduction: James

- ▶ Author of the letter of James is James the Half Brother of Jesus.
- ▶ This is profound that the preeminent leader of the early church was one of the blood brothers of Jesus.
- ▶ James who was once a doubter has been so moved and devoted to Jesus that he is now a leader in his movement even after his death.



Introduction:

- ▶ Date the book was written:
Between 44 A.D. and 62 A.D.
- ▶ Recipients or audience :
Messianic Jewish Christians



Introduction:

- ▶ Throughout church history many have thought that James and Paul disagree on their understanding of **Saving Faith**.
- ▶ Paul teaches **faith alone saves** and that works of the law do not merit our salvation before God
- ▶ James teaches that a **faith that saves will never remain alone**, but will produce a life of good works that give glory to God



Introduction: James 2:14-16

Thesis Statement: Saving faith is a working faith and a growing faith.

Antithesis: Confessing Christians who mentally and verbally ascent to the tenants and doctrines of God, but live according to the tenants and doctrines of the world.

Relevant Question: What does faith look like when faith goes to work in the believers life?



Introduction: James' Five Working Principals About Faith

I. A **Workless Faith** Does Not **Save**. (v. 14)

II. A **Workless Faith** is a **Worthless Faith** (vss. 15-17)

III. **Good Works** are the **Evidence** of an **Authentic Faith** (vss. 18-20)

IV. A **Case Study in Faith & Works**: Abraham (vss. 21-24)

V. A **Case Study in Faith & Works**: Rahab (vss. 25-26)

I. A Workless Faith Does Not Save (vs. 14)

- ▶ **James 2:14** What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?





I. A Workless Faith Does Not Save (vs. 14)

- ▶ **Point to Ponder:** Do you feel that social and class issues still affect how people value and relate to each other in the church today?
- ▶ **Explanation:**
- ▶ James warns against the practice of showing **partiality** or **favoritism** to members of the congregation based upon personal wealth or social standing in the world.
- ▶ Some in the congregation might be suggesting that they are **saved by faith alone** not on the apostles expectations of social decency within the early Christian community.
- ▶ James reveals a **blind spot** or a **dead faith** in some of the member of the church he is writing to in this letter.



I. A Workless Faith Does Not Save. (vs. 14)

Exhortation:

An authentic faith is accompanied by good works that leads us to value and do good to all our brothers and sisters in the church and to care when we see brothers and sisters in need in the congregation.

A faith that is insensitive to brothers and sisters in need or values them based on worldly standards, and feels no need to rightly love those who Christ died for is purely an intellectual assent and is not a saving faith.

II. A Workless Faith Is A Worthless Faith.(vss. 15-17)

- ▶ James 2
- ▶ **15** If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food,
- ▶ **16** 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?
- ▶ **17** So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.



II. A Workless Faith Is A Worthless Faith.(vss. 15-17)

- **Point to Ponder:**
Does the church's
indifference, or
lack of response
to critical issues of
need impact
public opinion of
the Church's
relevance today?



II. A Workless Faith Is A Worthless Faith (vss. 15-17)

- ▶ **Explanation:**
- ▶ James then **lifts up a mirror** to his congregation in these verses and shows the image of a church that **looks nothing** like **the Christ** who died to meet the needs of the people he loved by self-sacrificing service through death on a cross.
- ▶ **Faith that does not produce good works** to those in need **is worthless to people** who **need** to experience the **love of God** through the church, and to God who gave it all to help people in need.



II. A Workless Faith Is A Worthless Faith.(vss. 15-17)

- ▶ **Exhortation:**
- ▶ When the church neglects to minister to the needs of people in desperate situations that they are in contact with it fails to fulfill it's high calling as the hands and feet of Jesus.
- ▶ When we look at present issues of justice and mercy in our culture and congregations when the church fails to responds we are perceived as worthless to people who need the truth, love, and healing of Christ.



III. Good Works Are The Evidence Of Genuine Faith.(vss. 18-20)

- ▶ **James 2**
- ▶ **18** But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” **Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.**
- ▶ **19** You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the **demons believe—and shudder!**
- ▶ **20** Do you want to be shown, **you foolish** person, that faith apart from works is **useless?**



III. Good Works Are The Evidence Of Genuine Faith.(vss. 18-20)



- ▶ **Point to Ponder:** Are good works enough to identify one as a child of God?
- ▶ **Explanation:**
 - ▶ James corrects the professing believer who has no concern with living or conforming their life to the mercy they have received in Christ especially in relation to how they treat members of the church in need. **An authentic faith is demonstrated** or evidenced in a **life doing good works to people** in and out of the church.
 - ▶ James says that **right confession** is good, but even demons have orthodox understanding and **belief in the God**.
 - ▶ James here is quoting the Shema or the Jewish confession of monotheism in Deuteronomy 6:4. The demons even fear the punishment and wrath of God, but still they are committed to their rebellion and have no desire to serve the most High God.
 - ▶ So to were the Jews in Jesus day they had the orthodox confession but were not living the faith.

III. Good Works Are The Evidence Of Genuine Faith.(vss. 18-20)



James ends this section by reiterating in this verse his main thesis of this section **faith without works is dead**.

► **Exhortation:**

Good works must be accompanied by a **good confession**, and a **good confession** must be accompanied **by good works**.

Good works without faith and dependence on the Jesus as the only Son and Savior of God is **self righteousness** that seeks to **merit** ones standing before God on their **own moral** accomplishments.

Yet a good confession without **good works is a demonic** faith that says one thing but does another. It is a form of Godliness but denies the true power of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit in someone's life.

IV. A Case Study in Faith & Works : Abraham(vss. 21-24)

▶ **James 2**

▶ **21** Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?

▶ **22** You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;

▶ **23** and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God.

▶ **24** You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.



IV. A Case Study in Faith & Works : Abraham(vss. 21-24)

- ▶ **Point to Ponder:** Can we grow or mature in our faith in God?
- ▶ **Explanation:**
- ▶ Abraham the father of faith functions for James as a case study and a proof that justifying faith or saving faith is never alone, but accompanies obedient actions that trust in the mercy and grace of God.
- ▶ James in these verses furthers his argument and says that in the life of Abraham the “father of faith”, faith and works came together (synergized) to bring about the perfection or maturation of his faith in God.



IV. A Case Study in Faith & Works : Abraham(vss. 21-24)

- ▶ Two core doctrines at play in the story of Abraham:
- ▶ The Doctrine of **Justification** and **Sanctification**.
- ▶ Abraham was **justified** by faith that progressively led his life or allowed him to be **sanctified** to live out obedient and good works empowered by faith or trust in the faithfulness and total **sufficiency of God**.



Justification

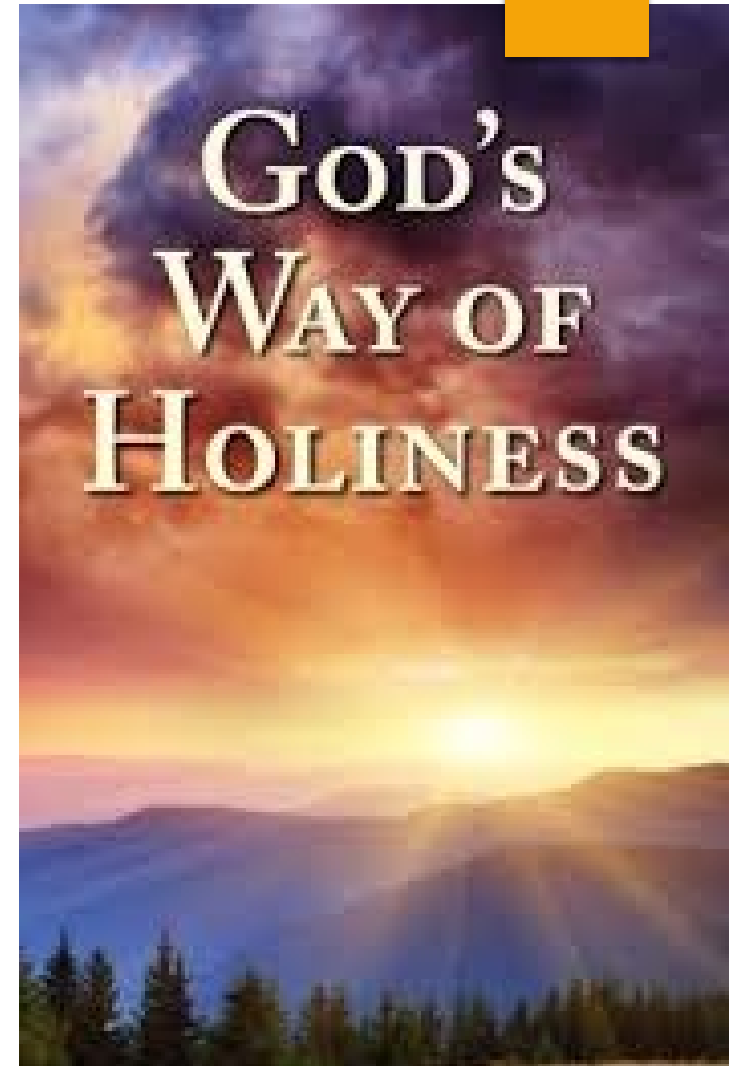
- ▶ We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

A photograph showing a red eraser being used to erase the word "SIN" written in light blue pencil on a white surface. The eraser is positioned diagonally, and small pieces of the white surface are being removed, creating a trail of white debris. The word "SIN" is partially obscured by the eraser and the debris.

**Our Sins
Are Erased**

Sanctification

- ▶ We believe that sanctification is the process by which according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means- especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer



IV. A Case Study in Faith & Works : Abraham(vss. 21-24)

- ▶ **Exhortation:**
- ▶ Our life in relationship with God begins when our faith goes to work, and matures as our faith continues to grow as we work. The next season of development of faith is connected to you taking a step or taking an action in faith that is going to allow God to show you his faithfulness and power on your behalf.

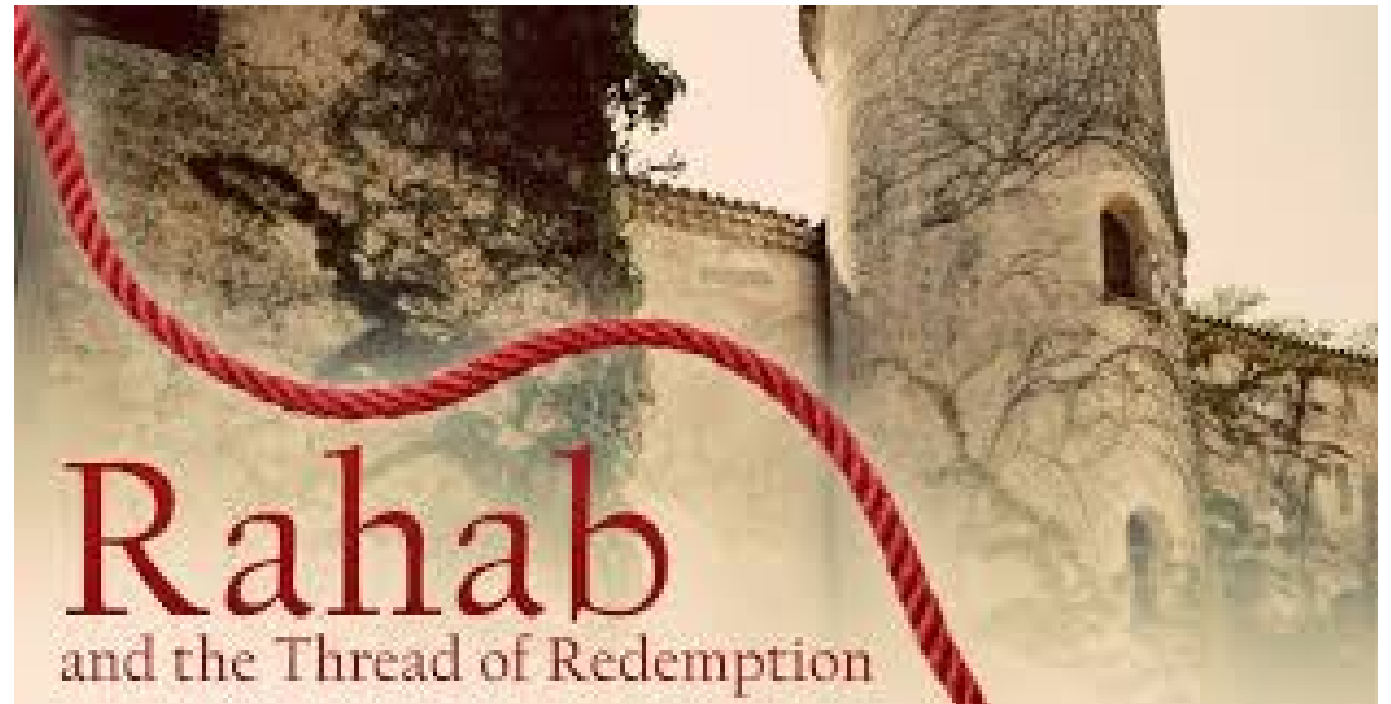


V. A Case Study of Faith & Work: Rahab(vss. 25-26)

James 2:

25 And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.



V. A Case Study of Faith & Work: Rahab(vss. 25-26)

- ▶ **Point to Ponder:** Are good works present when someone comes to saving faith in Jesus Christ?
- ▶ **Explanation:**
- ▶ Rahab is an example of how faith and works come together to bring about salvation in a persons life .
- ▶ Rahab's faith in God and His ultimate victory was made manifest through her positive action toward the spies of Israel in Jericho.
- ▶ James states faith is dependent on works in order to be made manifest in the life of the true child of God.
- ▶ Works give life to faith in Jesus Christ.
- ▶ Faith that does not have works can not save.
- ▶ As the spirit gives life to a body, so works give life to the faith that we profess.

V. A Case Study of Faith & Work: Rahab(vss. 25-26)

- ▶ VI. Of the Freeness of Salvation
We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial penitent, and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.
- ▶ Rahab accepted the spies which was a work that gave demonstration to her saving faith in God.



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V. A Case Study of Faith & Work: Rahab(vss. 25-26)

- ▶ **Exhortation:**
- ▶ Faith & Works are in harmony and synergy in the life of the person who comes to saving faith in Jesus Christ.



Conclusion:

Thesis Statement: Saving faith is a working faith and a growing faith.

Relevant Question: What does faith look like when it goes to work in the believer's life?

James' Five Working Principles About Faith:

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