

FAITH

THE CURRENCY OF THE KINGDOM

PART 9 - FAITH WITHOUT WORKS

In this next aspect of faith, we will look at the relationship that faith has with works. I think this is one aspect of our relationship that needs to be unpacked, because it's not just about doing any works for God, but works accomplished by faith.

James 2:14-26 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.

But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

We will break these verses down over the coming weeks into chunk size pieces which we can digest.

The first truth we need to allow to penetrate our hearts and minds in relation to all this, is the reality of saying one thing but not having the corresponding actuality of what we say. In this instance it's the words, **"if someone says he has faith but he has no works"**.

We can 'say' we know God. We can 'say' we love God. We can say we have faith, we can say, we can say we can say a number of things, but this doesn't mean we are actually in the truth and the reality of what we say.

The one who says one thing but doesn't have the corresponding actuality of the true outcome, in this case, a work that backs this faith, is lying to themselves and others. This can be hard to hear and take, but it is the truth, and we need to allow the truth to penetrate every fibre of our being.

James 2:14-17 and Matthew 25:31-46 are synonymous of one another. They are both passages about saying you have faith, but with no appropriate demonstration of wisdom, and they both speak to the true justified position in Christ.

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ACTION: Get someone to read Matthew 25:31-46

Q. What is being made clear to us after reading Matthew 25:31-46 and James 2:14-26 in relation to faith and works, and our justified position?

James says a faith without works is dead. It's too easy to say "I have faith", but if your faith is not accompanied by a work, then all you have is fluff.

It's way too easy to say "I believe in God" and believe you are justified. James says even the demons believe that God is one and shudder, but this doesn't mean they are justified. I am not saying one who says they believe is not justified, but we must wrestle for way more than just a religious mental agreement with words. We see this in man made religious institutions, where man will keep his traditions, ceremonies and rituals, while his heart remains completely untouched from true spiritual repentance, and believe they are justified.

True biblical faith of the Spirit as we have looked at, produces a true work of the Spirit. They are ultimately of the same kind. We see this pattern through the Scriptures, especially in Hebrews 11, when we see the words "by faith.....there was a work done.

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

QUESTIONS

1. Why is it so easy to say one thing and not have the corresponding outcome to what you say?
2. Why is it that faith without a work is dead?
3. Why is it so easy to believe you are justified by what you say you believe and possibly not be?
4. How do you think this will influence and affect the way you live going forward?