

**A TIME TO GROW UP**  
*"Relationship Between Faith and Works"*  
**James 2:14-26**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. God wants us to understand the relationship between being "*in Christ*" and our works "*for Christ*."
2. *Ephesians 2:8-9*
  - a) **JUST REMEMBER:** Good works can't save anyone.
3. *Ephesians 2:10*
  - a) "*for we are his workmanship*"
  - b) "*created in Christ Jesus for good works*"

**I. LOOKING AT FAITH AND WORKS**

1. **SO THE QUESTION IS:** *What kind of faith do you have?*
  - a) Worthwhile faith? Does something for the kingdom!!!
  - b) Or Worthless faith? Does nothing for the Kingdom!!!
2. **James 2:14**
  - a) "*What good is it? Or what Use is it?*"
  - b) "*can that faith save him?*"
    - 1) Answer: **NO**
3. *Romans 4:3-5*
4. *Vs 14*
  - a) "*What good is it, my brothers*"
5. **Paul** explains how sinners become **saints**.
  - a) **James** explains how saints grow in **sanctification**.

**II. WORKS ARE NECESSARY FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

1. **WE KNOW** - we are saved **BY GRACE ALONE** - **THROUGH FAITH ALONE** - **IN CHRIST ALONE**.
2. We must put our faith to work to experience God's power & presence in history.

3. To experience heaven in a fallen world requires both faith and works, NOT just faith.

A. POINT ILLUSTRATED

1. Vs 15-16

2. People in need, do need the Word...but at the proper time.  
a) But we must meet the NEED God brought to us.

B. A WASTE OF TIME

1. Vs 17

- a) "*Faith by itself is dead*" means there is NO life to it.

2. **GOOD** - Your faith is energized by action.

- a) This is NOT working for SALVATION.  
b) James' main concern here is what your faith produces on its way to heaven.

3. "*When faith is married to good works, it produces a child called "spiritual growth."*

III. WORKS VERIFY FAITH

A. SHOW AND TELL

1. Vs 18

- a) "*But someone will say*"  
1) Someone questioning James teaching.  
b) "*you have faith and I have works*"

2. James in essence says: "*Don't just tell me about your doctrine, show me what you believe.*"

- a) "*Read my belie fin my actions.*"

3. Vs 19a

- a) "*you do well*"

4. Vs 19b

- a) "*Even the demons believe and ---and shudder*"  
b) **WOW!!!** - The demons of Hell have the right doctrine.

5. Vs 20

a) Faith without visible verification has no usefulness.

6. SO THE QUESTION THEN IS THIS: Is our faith useful or useless?

B. USELESS FAITH

1. Believers **who make no significant contribution** to the world around them means their **faith is useless**.

2. Without good works....Christianity is useless.

a) And useless faith won't get through any trials, or addictions.

b) A useless faith doesn't overflow and bless others.

IV. WORKS ARE ESSENTIAL

A. FAITH OF A PATRIARCH

1. Vs 21-22

2. **Genesis 22:1-18**

3. Abraham had already been justified before God.

a) **Genesis 15:6**

b) The offering of Isaac was not about Abraham's **SALVATION**. It was about his **SANCTIFICATION**.

4. God sent Abraham the **greatest test** of his life, in order to **take him to a level of faith** he never reached before.

5. **James 2:22**

6. **Genesis 22:5; 8**

7. **Genesis 22:12**

8. A faith that does not work, is a faith that cannot be seen by the world.

9. Vs 23

## B. GROWING YOUR FAITH

1. When God first promised Abraham and Sarah a son....they laughed.
  - a) Abraham was 75
    - 1) **Genesis 12:1-4; 18:9-15; 21:1-7**
  - b) He was 100 when Isaac was born.
2. **The Point is clear:** Abraham had no idea how God was going to pull off this Miracle Child.
  - a) **WOW!!!** It wasn't Abraham's job to understand.
  - b) It was his job to believe.
3. **James 2:23**
  - a) What a statement of intimacy with God.

## C. FAITH OF A PROSTITUTE

1. Vs 25
  - a) Cf. *Joshua 2:1*
2. Rehab was saved: BY Grace Alone, THROUGH Faith Alone, IN Christ Alone.
  - a) And her faith transformed her eternity.
  - b) And her act of faith in protecting the spies preserved her family.
3. **VERY IMPORTANT:** When you are all in with God, He will enter history and transform your daily life.
4. **WATCH THIS:** If you want to see God do amazing stuff on earth, you will need faith that works.

## CONCLUSION:

1. Vs 26
2. Apart from works, faith will appear to be dead.
3. **WHAT IS GOD ASKING YOU TO DO??**
  - a) What God wants from you is faith that works.