

Real Faith Works:

Saving Faith

James 2:14-26(NIV)



- the "Gates of Heaven"
- Matthew 7:21-23 ¹

1. Faith without Works (vv.14-20, 26)

- damned faith (v.14) ²
- disengaged faith (vv.15-16) ³
- dead faith (v.17, 26)
- divorced faith (v.18)

faith & works



- demonic faith (v.19-20) ⁴



2. Faith with Works (vv. 21-25)

- the meaning of "considered righteous for what he did" / "justified by works" (v.21) ⁴
- the examples of Abraham ⁵ & Rahab ⁶ (vv.22-25)
- another example: Billy McCurrie ⁷

Two Common Objections:

- o Christians are hypocrites
- o it's too easy

Three Self-Assessments:

- o a living faith?
- o a living but lazy faith? Eph. 2:10; Rev. 3:2-3
- o a dead faith?

⁴ Romans 3:28; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8; 1 Corinthians 13:1-7; Galatians 5:6

⁵ Genesis 15:5-6; 22:1-18

⁶ Joshua 2; Hebrews 11:31

⁷ To flesh out the complementary difference between faith and works watch the secular BBC's docudrama of ex-terrorist, Billy McCurrie (<https://vimeo.com/134489907>) and his Christian testimony (<https://tinyurl.com/ycnw8cgp>)(30 + 6 min.).



Starter Questions:

1. Anything you want to talk about from what you've heard today?
2. If being a true Christian was a crime what evidence would the prosecutor bring against you?
3. Have your Christian good works re-shaped themselves in any way due to COVID-19? How?
4. When a person becomes a Christian, how is it true that God's salvation is both free and costly?
5. James insists we're justified by works and Paul insists we're justified by faith. How do you biblically resolve the paradox (the seeming contradiction)?
6. Would James say, "No," to the belief that someone may accept Jesus as Saviour but not as Lord? Why?
7. Do you have a living, busy, active, mighty faith? If not, how would you describe it? What will you do?

¹ For Jesus, entrance into the consummated kingdom depends on obedience, not spectacular spiritual experiences.

² Isaiah 1:13-17, 27-28

³ 1 John 3:17-18; Luke 10:25-37; Matthew 25:31-46

⁴ Deuteronomy 6:4; Mark 12:30