

FAITH THAT WORKS

“The Evidence of True Faith”

James 1:26-2:26

Introduction: Some would argue that this passage proves that Paul and James preached different gospels—Paul faith & grace and James faith & works.

Paul and James are not opposing each other; but are arguing against two predominant philosophies of the first century Jews. Paul addresses those who believed that works bring about one’s salvation; while James addresses those who believed that just believing brings about one’s salvation.

True Faith is not Superficial

*“Knowing the correct password
—saying ‘Master, Master,’ for instance
isn’t going to get you anywhere with Me.*

*What is required is serious obedience
—doing what My Father wills.*

*I can see it now—at the Final Judgment
many strutting up to Me and saying,*

*‘Master, we preached the Message,
we bashed the demons,
our God-sponsored projects had everyone talking.’*

*And do you know what I am going to say?
‘You missed the boat.*

*All you did was use Me
to make yourselves important.*

*You don’t impress Me one bit.
You’re out of here.’” (Matthew 7:21-23—The Message)*

- It is Constrained—not Reckless (1:26)
- It is Compassionate—not Self-centered (1:27a)

- It is Pure—not Corrupted (1:27b)

- It is Blind—not Partial (2:1-9)

*“But the LORD said to Samuel,
‘Do not look at his appearance
or at his physical stature,
because I have refused him.*

*For the LORD does not see as man sees;
for man looks at the outward appearance,
but the LORD looks at the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7)*

- It is Informed—not Judged (2:10-13)

True Faith is Saturating

- It Produces Works as Well as Words

- A Thought Provoking Question (2:14)

- A Thought Provoking Illustration (2:15-16)

*“If you see some brother or sister in need
and have the means to do something about it
but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing,
what happens to God's love?*

It disappears. And you made it disappear.

*My dear children,
let's not just talk about love;
let's practice real love.*

*This is the only way we'll know
we're living truly,
living in God's reality.” (1 John 3:17-18—The Message)*

- A Thought Provoking Statement (2:17-18)

- It Invades the Heart as Well as the Head (2:19-20)

Bible Belief Quiz:

Do you believe-that Jesus is the Son of God?

Do you believe that Jesus was born of a virgin?

Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross
for the sins of the world?

Do you believe that Jesus was raised from the dead
on the 3rd day?

Do you believe in a literal place called hell?

Do you believe in a coming judgment?

*“The word is near you,
in your mouth and in your heart
(that is, the word of faith which we preach):
that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus
and believe in your heart
that God has raised Him from the dead,
you will be saved.*

*For with the heart
one believes unto righteousness,
and with the mouth
confession is made unto salvation.” (Romans 10:8b-
10)*

- It Demonstrates as Well as Declares
 - Abraham & Two Experiences (2:21-24)
 - Declaration of Faith (Genesis 15)
 - Demonstration of Faith (Genesis 22)
 - Rahab & Two Experiences (2:25)
 - Declaration of Faith (Joshua 6)

--Demonstration of Faith (*Joshua 6*)

Application: Do you have a true and saving faith? (2:26)