

## James 2:14-26 - Faith Without Works is Dead

### I. Paul and James

- A. Is justification by faith alone or not alone (compare Rom. 3:27-28 and James 2:24)?
- B. The same word for justification is used by both (*dikaioo*)
- C. The same person is used as an example by both Paul and James (Abraham)

*Paul and James have two different points: Paul teaches us how we are declared righteous before God by faith alone. James teaches us how true saving faith is demonstrated by our actions.*

### II. The Scenario of False Faith (vs. 14-17)

- A. James' main concern: the person that says they have faith, but has no works (vs. 14)
  - 1. See vs. 17, 20, and 26
- B. The second use of the word faith in vs. 14 is "that faith" or "that kind of faith"
  - 1. The definite article is used before the word; this is noted by most major translations

### III. The Emptiness of a Bare Profession (vs. 18-20)

- A. Vs. 18: You can't choose to be a "faith Christian" or a "works Christian". These things can't be separated
- B. Vs. 19: Even the demons believe in God. What makes your faith any different?

### IV. The Example of Abraham and Rahab (vs. 21-25)

- A. Why Abraham and Rahab as the examples?
  - 1. James chooses two ends of the spectrum, the father of the faithful, and a Gentile prostitute
- B. When was Abraham justified? (see Gen. 15:6 and Rom. 4:3, 10-11) and compare with Genesis 22:11-12
- C. Meaning of the word "justify" in James: *to demonstrate the reality of saving faith*
  - 1. The use of "justify" to "demonstrate" or "vindicate the truth of" is found in Luke 7:33-35

### V. Faith Without Works is Dead (vs. 26)

- A. James' final point: the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead. A profession of faith with no action; "no walk" is dead

### VI. Applications:

- A. Add to our faith virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness (2 Pet 1:3-8)
- B. Let us search out those areas where we "profess" but don't act, areas of hypocrisy, repent of inaction when the Word of God speaks to us