



The Canadian *Lord's Day* Association

Bible Course

Acts to Revelation

Lesson 57

Name: _____

Read Chapter 2

Chapters 2-4: Faith Proved by Works

In chapters 2-4, James continues the theme of faith and works. Faith without works is dead. Living faith is faith that works. Faith that works is exemplified when **partiality** or favoritism is absent, working faith (rather than outward profession) is **visible**, the **tongue** is tamed, and **worldliness and strife** are avoided.

1. Dead faith is seen in **partiality** (2:1-13). What is meant by being “partial?”

2. Why is this a serious sin? _____

3. Where might partiality appear in our lives? _____

4. What is the “royal law” (v. 8) and why is it called “royal?” _____

5. What is meant by the “law of liberty,” and how is this different from the Mosaic law?

6. Faith that works is **visible**. Christian deeds demonstrate to others what it means to be a Christian. If God has shown mercy to a person, how will this affect a person’s action toward others? See also I John 3:16-18. _____

7. Can “faith save a person?” (v. 14)? Explain. _____

8. List the examples that James gives in 2:14-16 of faith that is visible.
- a. _____ (v. 15-16)
 - b. _____ (v. 21)
 - c. _____ (v. 25)
9. Explain in what sense that Abraham was justified by faith in Romans 4:13, and compare with James 2:24-25. _____

10. Why is Rahab mentioned in this section? _____

11. What does Jesus say about faith and works (Matthew 7:26-27)? _____

12. Summarize the relationship between faith and works? Write out verse 17. _____

*Read
Chapter 3*

Living faith demonstrates a **tamed tongue**. In Jewish culture, teaching was a highly valued and respected profession. Many early Christian Jews wanted to be teachers. James warned them that although it is good to aspire to teach, the teacher's responsibility is great because the primary teaching tool is the tongue, which no one can truly tame. There are specific people called "teachers" but also think about the many people in a teaching role: ministers, teachers, parents, older siblings, counselors, babysitters, and older students in a school.

13. Who shall receive the greater condemnation, and why? _____

14. In verse 3:2, is James talking about what we say or what we don't say? Explain. _____

15. What 3 illustrations (similar to a tongue) does James use to show the effect that a little thing can have?
- a. _____

- b. _____
- c. _____

16. What is James trying to show by means of these illustrations? _____

17. A number of examples of an untamed tongue could include: gossip, putting others down, bragging, manipulating, false teaching, exaggerating, complaining, flattering, lying, boasting, ridicule, sarcasm, and praising evil deeds. What examples of an untamed tongue are in the following texts?

- a. _____ (Proverbs 12:18-19)
- b. _____ (Proverbs 13:3)
- c. _____ (Proverbs 18:8)
- d. _____ (Proverbs 25:18)

18. Why does James call the tongue a “world of iniquity” in v. 6? _____

19. What 3 questions should a person often ask himself before speaking?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

20. What “glaring inconsistency” does James identify in v. 10? _____

21. Who is a truly wise man (v. 13)? _____

22. What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom? _____

23. How does the true wisdom compare with wisdom that is “earthly?” _____

Evaluator: _____

Meditation: *What doth it profit, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? James 2:14*

Many of God's dear children are often in doubt and perplexity lest their faith should not be the faith of God's elect. This may arise through the weakness of their understanding in the word of truth; and because, as yet, faith doth not bring forth its fruits of joy and assurance. But sooner or later the Holy Ghost will make this matter clear and satisfactory to their hearts, in believing.

But the soundness of our faith is least of all suspected by us while in a state of nature. For we all think, are very confident, have not the least doubt, but say, "we have faith;" true faith: but this is a weed which grows wild in nature's field. This is the faith here spoken of, which all the world rest in who know not the Son of God. All men have not faith, the faith of God's elect. If we say we have faith, what doth it profit? If it brings no glory to God, no good to men, it only deceives the soul.

"Can faith save him?" What disputes and contentions hath this question raised! Some have even set the apostle James at variance with the apostle Paul; as though the former contended for salvation by works against the latter. "Can faith save him?" a question, equal to an assertion. It cannot. The supply of one word here puts the matter beyond all dispute. Can *such* a faith save him? No: it is impossible.

But dost thou, O Christian, think thy faith, though accompanied with good works, can save thee by its inherent excellence? Verily, no more than thy repentance or thy love: these are alike gifts of grace by Jesus Christ. Given, not to rival Him in the heart; nor share with Him in the glory of salvation; but to honour Him, and comfort His members. We are not saved *for* faith, but through faith. Yet faith is a precious grace. It endears a precious Saviour to the heart, and "works by love."

But faith doth not *procure* God's love, obtain His favour, make atonement for sins, work out a righteousness to justify, nor merit the power of the Spirit to sanctify. All this is enjoyed in believing, but not procured by faith. Faith, like the Baptist's voice, cries in the soul, "Behold the Lamb of God." By faith, we honour God's word, look to His everlasting love, rely on Christ, mourn over our sin, abhor ourselves, and repent as in dust and ashes. Peace, love, joy, and all inward fruits, as well as outward fruitfulness in every good word and work, are produced by the Holy Spirit, through the life and vigor of faith. It concerns us daily to pray, "Lord, increase our faith!" Luke 17:5
Taken from: "A Spiritual Treasury for the Children of God" by W. Mason