



Faith Without Works

10 minutes – Greeting & Fellowship

- Light refreshments (optional)
- Welcoming and Introducing new members or visitors to the Group
- Sharing upcoming events (Conferences, Seminars, Network Meetings, etc.)

20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion

Objective: Learn that just professing being a Christian, does not mean that one is a Christian! A True Christian will not be able to live the same way, nor live without bearing the fruit of the Faith!

Read James 2:14 – 2:17 – Living Your Faith!

- The opening of this portion of the letter that James has written, hits us with a strong question to consider. “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?”
- This question directly challenges the thought that being a Christian is simply reciting a prayer.
- While repentance, faith and public profession are absolutely the start of any evidence of a transformed life – it alone is not fully evidence!
- A True Christian, moves from milk to meat, from the flesh to being transformed into the Image of Christ – a radical shift from self-centered agendas to the pursuit of picking up one’s own Cross and denying one’s self for the sake of the King and His Kingdom – brings forth Kingdom Works!
- So if we only profess and claim faith, but our lives show no Christ-like behavior and care for others, we must take account of the true reality of our faith. Is it just professed, or is it in the process?

Read James 2:18 – 2:19 – Faith is More than a Profession!

- We enter in to our reading of two potentially controversial verses – controversial in the sense that there is a powerful contrasting, that a claim of belief is not a justification of faith – why? “Even the demons believe – and shudder!”
- Just professing that God is God, does not justify our faith – every knee will bow and every tongue will confess! Faith will produce faithful works – simply because true faith will not allow us to not grow and bear fruit!

Read James 2:20 – 2:26 – Examples of Faith Producing Works!

- In verse 20 – James lays the gauntlet down! Do you really want me to show you the uselessness of faith without works??? James is ready to lay it all out and end the debate!
- He begins by enlisting the historical testimony of the father of our faith – Abraham! Was Abraham’s faith not proven, not justified by works? Was it not evidence of the faith of Abraham, that he was willing to put his child of promise on the altar?
- This was the most powerful message of confirmation to the readers and hearers of James’ letter – Abraham’s faith was active with his works; his faith being completed by his works!
- Rahab is also listed and James closes out with the reminder – faith apart from works is dead!



20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion Questions

Question 1: Do you understand the question James asks – “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?”

- In John 15:2 – Jesus taught that those who do not bear fruit will be taken away.
- We are justified by faith in Christ and our faith is justified or affirmed by Christ centered works flowing through our lives. Some may try to teach that our works justify us in regard to salvation. This is not true, what we do is an outflowing of the inward Work of Christ in us!
- James uses an example of someone who lacks clothing and food, if we do not care and are complacent to a fellow Christian – does that show that our faith is alive?

Question 2: Do you understand that a “sinner’s prayer” alone is not evidence of faith?

- James as we learned earlier, uses the powerful example that a profession alone is not evidence of faith – he points out that even the demons believe and shudder!
- James is much in line with what we learn from Paul in Philippians 2 – “that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”
- Just speaking the truth, does not mean you are living the truth nor are a part of the Truth!

Question 3: With the examples of great faith empowered witnesses like Abraham and Rahab, consider what are some of the examples of faith being lived out in our lives in modern times?

- Many believers today leave their homeland behind like Abram did, because they hear the call of God to a new beginning! Some may leave for a church plant or traveling ministry call.
- Some may need not a change of location, but a change of vocation. Being called to full time ministry, full time missions or into picking up a new job to save for missions work.

10 minutes – Closing in Prayer

- Pray that each person learn and apply a lifestyle based on our lesson
- Pray that the group keeps each other accountable in doing so
- Pray prayers of agreement with individuals with prayer requests
- Close with a prayer that everything be sealed by the Holy Spirit and for safety in traveling

Post Meeting Fellowship

- Leader should collect contact information from any new attendees
- Time of Post Meeting Fellowship does not have to be restrictive but held within reason
- Good time to share testimonies
- Be sure no one feels they are *obligated* to stay if they need to go

Dismiss the Group

- Post meeting – Leader should log in to Connect Leader’s Web Report and enter attendance and any new member or visitor information then submit the data