

James 2:14-26 ~ Faith and Deeds ~ Discussion Questions

1. In verse 2:14, James speaks of a person having faith without deeds and asks, “Can such faith save him?” Can it?
2. From a worldly perspective, why is it some important to have deeds along with faith?
3. What does Jesus say about faith and works (Matthew 7:26-27)?
4. Proper motivation is important in understanding the value of our works. What are we being asked to do and why? (1 John 3:16-18)
5. Give a modern example of the situation described in verses James 2:15-16.
6. In your own words, explain the meaning of James 2:18.
7. Doesn't James 2:18 contradict Paul in Romans 3:28 when he writes “man is justified (saved) by faith without the deeds (works) of the law”?
8. What is the point of 2:19 where James says that even the demons have faith?
9. Was Abraham saved by faith or works? (Genesis 15:3-6, Romans 4:3).
10. Chronology is important when it comes to faith and works. Paul explains the sequence in Ephesians 2:8-10. What are the three steps?
11. Was there a similar sequence in Abraham's story as summarized in James 2:21-24? (The whole story is in Genesis, chapters 12 to 23.)
12. Explain the “job description” God gives us in Colossians 3:23-24.
13. Do Paul's words in Colossians 3:23 (Q 12) and 2 Corinthians 5:10 provide motivation for letting your deeds demonstrate your faith?

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1. What's wrong with having faith without deeds? (See Q 2)
2. If you were 100 miles from home with no money, no credit cards, no friends, no cell phone, no transportation, and no place to stay, what would you do to survive and make it home? Would faith alone get you home?
3. What is one way to tell if a person has a real, living faith? Try to think of more than one example.
4. What do the demons believe about God? How does it affect them? (2:19)
5. What is difficult about applying what we hear in church or at a Bible study to our everyday lives?
6. Name three Biblical commands that are hard for you to live out. Why is this?
7. If God has forgiven us and promised us eternal life, what motivation do we have to live in obedience to him today?
8. Which is easier for you: talking about your faith with others or demonstrating your love toward them. How would you answer this if the other person was:
 - A) a non-believing family member
 - B) a close friend who is a Christ follower
 - C) a boisterous complaining person behind you on a long checkout line
 - D) a member of a club or group you belong to who tells dirty jokes and especially likes ones that mock "religious" people
 - E) your child's teacher who teaches evolution and poopos the Creation story
 - F) someone of a radically non-Christian faith (Hindu, Buddhist, new age, etc.)
9. In what areas of your life can you begin to act more like a Christian? Be specific.