



Faith That Truly Saves Me

James 2 :14-26

Four kinds of Faith—Which do you have?

1st - Faith of my mouth. James 2:14-17

That kind of faith alone is dead. Vs. 17

2nd - Faith of my mind. James 2:18-20.

That kind of faith alone is demonic. Vs. 19
(see digging deeper)

3rd - Faith of my emotions. James 2:19, 20

That kind of faith alone is useless. Vs. 20

4th - Faith in my works. James 2:21-26

That kind of faith reveals...

...My perfection vs. 22

...My account of righteousness. Vs. 23

...My “justification” or declaration by God of true salvation. Vs. 24

Abraham illustrates works of faith. Vs. 21, 23, Genesis 15:6; 22; Hebrews 11:17-19

Rahab illustrates works of faith. Joshua 2

(see digging deeper—how are you like Abraham and Rahab?)

Digging Deeper In James 2:14-26

This passage from James is so essential for the eternal destiny of all people in the world. So many think they are saved, going to heaven and will escape hell by exercising a faith that is really dead or useless in God's eyes.

Read James 2:14-26 and note what kind of faith is described in that negative way.

True and False Test

I prove I am a true Christian when...

I tell other of my love of Jesus.

I talk about believing in one God.

I tell others how much I love them and want their needs fulfilled.

I believe that Jesus is God in human flesh and can prove it from God's Word.

I believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

I believe in a future time of eternal punishment from sin.

I become emotional as I cry out to Jesus about my life.

I feel the Lord's presence as I cry out to Jesus.

I said I believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I fear Jesus' power and submit to Him.

I call Jesus my Lord and perform miracles.

I tell others prophesy about God.

I believe in Jesus but never attend church.

I believe in Jesus but have never repented of an ongoing sin in my life.

I believe in Jesus, but never read or study the Bible.

Read the following verses and then consider again your true or false answers above on what proves someone is truly a child of God, or saved.

Matthew 5:16 If you are saved, what should men see?

Matthew 7:15-21 What reveals the true faith of a person?
Who only will enter the kingdom of heaven?
What person thinks they are saved, but is not?

Romans 2:6 What is the basis of God's reward for those truly saved?

I Corinthians 3:8 What is the basis of our reward as one truly saved?

II Corinthians 5:10 In appearing before Christ, what will He use to evaluate our lives?

Revelation 20:12, 13 What is the final basis God will use to determine who is in heaven?

Even with those verses, do our works save us?

What do Ephesians 2:8, 9 and Titus 3:4-7 say about works and salvation?

Some think they are saved simply by what truth they believe. But faith in great truth alone, does not prove someone is saved. Read James 2:18, 19. What other beings also believe great truths about God? Hardly good company. Our faith must go deeper than that, although we do need to know these truths.

Note below what demons believe, and yet are not saved. This shows why so many are deceived in truth and thinking they are really saved. Faith in this alone does not prove one's salvation.

- Demons believe in the deity of Jesus.

Mark 3:11 ***“Whenever the evil spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, “You are the Son of God.””***

- Demons believe an eternal punishment for sin is coming.

Luke 8:31 ***“Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” “Legion,” he replied, because many demons had gone into him. ³¹ And they begged Him repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.”***

Matthew 8:29 ***“What do you want with us, Son of God?” they shouted. “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?”***

- Demons know that Jesus is the Holy One of God.

Mark 1:33 ***“Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, ²⁴ “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”***

- Demons believe that Jesus is fully man.

Luke 4:33 ***“In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an evil spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, ³⁴ “Ha! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth?”***

- Demons knew Jesus was the Jewish Messiah.

Luke 4:41 ***“Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Christ.”***

- Demons believe in submission to Jesus, Son of Most High.

Luke 8:27, 28 ***“When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!”***

- Demons teach a doctrine to counter the true gospel.

I Timothy 4:1 ***“The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.”***

- Demons can distort the truth about Jesus, like The Da Vinci Code.

I John 4:2, 3 ***“This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.”***

- Demons know who has true saving faith.

Revelation 9:4 ***“They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads.”***

- Demons can know the future.

Acts 16:16 ***“Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.”***

- Demons know the gospel and can blind us from knowing it.

II Corinthians 4:4 ***“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”***

Read:

II Corinthians 13:5-8: ***“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? ⁶ And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test. ⁷ Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong. Not that people will see that we have stood the test but that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed.”***

We are called to examine ourselves. Based on the life of Abraham and Rahab that James chose as perfect illustrations of true faith at work, evaluate your own faith from the following principles that come from the faith of Abraham and Rahab.

My faith is at work when I obey the following. Which are true of your faith?

- Obey - in a test even though much time passes and I see no relief from my pain and test.
- Obey - even though my past sins are worse than most anyone else, I trust in God's forgiveness and live free of that past sin.
- Obey - even when my circumstances are beyond my control.
- Obey - I am willing to forgive someone I hate or who hurt me.
- Obey - when the task or command is impossible for me, and I do not have what it takes, but I believe God's power will help me obey.
- Obey - when those around me disagree and oppose me and I am alone spiritually.
- Obey - when God's commands seem so unfair and too hard.
- Obey - when the only possibility for success is the resurrection power of God, I trust in Him. Hebrews 11:17-19 on Isaac.
- Obey - continue to trust in God and live for Him, knowing He will provide for me in ways I cannot see right how. He is Jehovah Jireh. Genesis 22:2
- Obey - I am holding nothing back from God, even my most precious family.
- Obey - I am trusting God to the very last moment when all looks lost.
- Obey - I will serve Him even if it moves me beyond my comfort zone and outside my ability to do it.
- Obey - trusting God to provide for all my needs.



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