

Text: James 2:14-26
Topics: Faith, Justification, Works
Series: Genuine Faith on the Anvil of Life.

Monroe Bible Church
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Faith PLUS Works?

I. What is Said (14-17)

If I claim saving faith, but actions are absent, my claim is empty.

II. What is Shown (18-20)

What I believe may be accurate, but without actions it is acknowledgment without evidence.

III. What is Sufficient (21-26)

Actions are the evidence of saving faith.

When my actions are a response to Christ they will continue.

Application Questions - These questions are provided for your further study and application of the subject of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out answers to these questions will help drive home the point. They are designed to be discussed in your home, with other believers, and in a Life Group for even more benefit.

1. Can you think of a time when you had the genuineness of your faith called into question because of your actions? What happened?
2. Read James 2:14-17. What does James call faith without works? What question does he raise about that kind of faith?

How would you describe that kind of faith?

If you find this kind of faith in yourself, or see it in those around you, what would God want you to do?

3. Read James 2:18-20. What is the challenge of the "foolish fellow"? How does James refute that challenge?

What does "works" refer to in verses 14, 18, and 20? (Consider the context.)

4. Read James 2:21-26. In verses 21-23 James uses the example of Abraham. Read about Abraham's offering of Isaac in Genesis 22:1-12, then God's declaration of Abraham as justified in Genesis 15:1-6.

What is the meaning of justified in the way James uses it? Why can it not be the same as the meaning Paul used? (See Romans 3:20-28; 5:1)

5. How does the example of Rahab in James 2:25-26 illustrate the same meaning of justified as the example of Abraham?

James gives another vivid illustration in verse 26. What is his point?

6. What purpose does asserting works as evidence of saving faith serve?

Explain how knowing the importance of works should drive us to Christ and not into legalism.