

If you're a Christian and you know it,
your life will surely show it.
JAMES 2:14-26

A VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION:

James 2:14 - *What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?*

- Is just a _____ good enough to save us or is _____?

Controversy: Do Paul and James Contradict Each Other?

Paul taught about _____, and James taught about _____

"Whenever people rely on their religious activities for salvation, Paul's powerful plea that it is by grace we have been saved through faith, must be vigorously proclaimed. But when "faith" has been turned into nothing more than a mental commitment to certain doctrines, James' understanding of faith as an active vigorous obedience must be forcefully asserted."

Douglas Moo

James and Paul don't _____ each other, they _____ each other.

We have been saved _____, _____, _____.
(Ephesians 2:8-10)

Saving Faith is a _____

CHARACTERISTICS OF REAL FAITH:

1. Real Faith Is More Than Just _____

2. Real Faith Is More Than Just _____

3. Real Faith Isn't _____ by What We Say, It's _____ By What We Do.

CONCLUSION:

We can't be _____, without _____

Small Group Discussion Guide

In what ways are people tempted to talk about their faith, but not act upon their faith?

What do the following verses teach us about the difference between knowledge and obedience according to God?

Luke 6:46-49; 1 John 2:3-6; James 2:14-26

What difference has your profession of faith made in your life?

An old question asks, "If people were arrested for being Christians, would there be enough evidence to convict you?" How does a person's lifestyle reveal about what they really believe?

As you think back on the sermon, was there a principle or idea that you found particularly clarifying, challenging or confusing?

James scorns pious words without practical action in 2:15, 16. What is significant about the kinds of works James says is part of true religion (see also 1:19 - 27 and 2:1-13)? How do they differ from "religious activities"?

What are the main things you learn about faith and works from Abraham and Rahab? Which came first – faith or works? How do they "work together" in both these illustrations?

You have a friend who says, "Sure I believe in Jesus." Yet they show no evidence of meaningful spiritual interest or concern to live a life of love. Although you know God alone knows their hearts, how would you respond to that profession?

What is the most important truth from 2:14-26 for your life?