

Living faith

14. What practical example does James give in verses 15-16 of faith in action? What mismatch does it show between words and deeds?

15. What other ways can you think of in which our deeds may not match our words?

16. James wrote about dead faith. Based on what we have seen in this study how would you describe living faith?

Pray

Pray for those who are struggling in daily life and for opportunities and willingness to be able to show practical care for them. Pray particularly for the work of the CAP money team and also for the work done through the school with families in difficult circumstances.

Pray for those who will be taking exams around this time, that they would not get over anxious and be able to do justice to their abilities and what they have learned.

Pray for our plans for development of the church as the PCC weighs up the proposals and costs and that when we are finally prepared to go ahead we would see God's goodness as we seek funding.

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James

Week 4 : Living Faith



We saw previously James' concern that we should not just be hearers of the word but also doers.

Read James 2.14-26

Faith that doesn't work

1. In verses 17, 20 and 26 how does James describe faith that does not have works? What do you think he means by this? (See also verse 14.)

*In our Lent bible studies in 2016 (which are on the Church website) we looked at the word 'faith' and saw that it means certain **facts** about Jesus (etc) that we personally **assent** to such that we actively **trust** in Him.*

2. In what sense do demons believe (v19)? What sort of belief is James therefore describing when he likens it to that of demons? How does this relate to the three aspects of faith highlighted above?

Abraham's faith (v21-24)

Read Genesis 15.2-6

3. What sort of faith do you think Abraham (Abram) had when we are told that he believed the Lord? (Remember that Abraham had already left his homeland and relatives at God's command not knowing what lay ahead.)

4. From this passage in Genesis why can Paul write in Galatians 2.16 that Abraham was justified (counted righteous) by his faith and not by his works?

In the years that followed Abraham and Sarah struggled at times to keep trusting God's promises but finally by God's power they had a son, Isaac. Then, a few more years later, Abraham's faith was tested:

Read Genesis 22.1-3

5. How did God's command test the faith Abraham had shown years earlier?

6. If Abraham had refused to do what God said, what would that say about His faith/trust in the Lord?

7. How does Abraham demonstrate the three aspects of faith (even if in the years in between he had wobbled a bit)?

8. From this passage in Genesis why can James write in 2.21 of his letter that Abraham was justified by his works and, v22, that faith was active along with his works and completed by his works?

9. Look again at James 1.21, what did he say there about how we save our souls? How does the next verse relate this to our actions?

10. In verse 24 James says that a person is justified by work and not by faith alone. What sort of faith is James therefore describing in this verse?

Rahab's faith (v25)

Read Joshua 2.1-4 & 9

11. What does verse 9 on its own show about the nature of Rahab's faith? (Think about the three aspects of faith again.)

12. What risk was Rahab taking in hiding the spies? Would you have done what she did? (Many Christians have faced such situations.)

13. How do Rahab's works in verse 1-4 show us the true nature of Rahab's faith?