



A Faith that Cannot Save with Pastor Max Frazier

James 2:14-26

AN INTRODUCTION

This is a troublesome passage for many.

Some, including Martin Luther, believed this passage contradicts what Paul says about salvation by faith alone.

Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 5:1-2; Romans 3:28; Galatians 2:15-16

JAMES: UNDERSTOOD

Summary of James' teaching: what we do reveals who we are.

John the Baptist – *Matthew 3:18*

Jesus – *Matthew 5:16; 7:15-20*

The Apostle Paul – *Romans 2:5-6, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Ephesians 2:10*

We are God's "masterpiece."

Masterpieces are put on display for all to see.

As God's "masterpiece" you give evidence of what God has done in your life. And you do this through what you do.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A FAITH THAT CANNOT SAVE

It is just a profession – *James 2:14-16*

When it comes to salvation by faith, many people can talk a very good talk, yet there is little evidence that God had worked a change in their lives.

It is a lifeless faith – *James 2:17*

A faith that gives no evidence of a response is just like a corpse: it might "look good" but it is lifeless.

It has shallow convictions – *James 2:18-20*

Dialogue between two people who claim to be "born again"

For one man, the evidence of his salvation lies exclusively in his statements about what he believes.

Lesson: knowing about God and trusting in Him are not one-in-the-same.

James: works are the evidence of the heart-change that has occurred.

For one man, the evidence of his salvation lies in what he does.

Belief is not enough. We need to act on that belief.

What you do reveals who you are.

TWO EXAMPLES OF FAITH EVIDENCED BY WORKS

James 2:21-26

Abraham – a great example of faith

Genesis 15:6

Genesis 22:12

Rahab – she acted on a “seed faith” and was blessed by God.

NOTES:

A CHALLENGE

Is there a contradiction between James and the Apostle Paul?

The answer is a resounding “NO!”

Paul: works have absolutely nothing to do with the act of our salvation.



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