James Women's Bible Study Revised 2022

Lesson 9: James 2:14-26Faith Without Works is Dead

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "God in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe – and shudder! ²⁰Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? ²¹Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the alter? ²²You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; ²³and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

- 1) Skim through James chapter 1. Remember in Lesson 7, we summarized some of the tests of faith that are given to us. Genuine faith is tested by:
 - trials
 - temptations
 - obedience to God's Word

Since then in the beginning of Chapter 2, we learned that another test of faith is .

2) Reread James 2:11-13. Remind yourself of the definitions of the following words:
- Mercy –

Judgment –

3) If you had to explain (or retell) James 2:13 to a young Christian, what would you say?
4) James 2:14-26 begins explaining another test of faith – one that might be described as the composite test (or the test that pulls the others together). Remind yourself by writing why James is describing these tests in this letter. Who is/are the subject(s) of these tests?
5) Read James 2:14. Now read Ephesians 2:8-9. Are these verses contradictory? Explain your answer?
6) In verses 15 & 16, James gives an example of explaining v. 14 which is summarized in vv. 17 & 18. If you were explaining to a young Christian, how would you restate verses 17 & 18?

7) Read verses 19 & 20. How does of chapter 1 (verse 19 through the			talking abou	t in the last half
8) Before reading the next passag and "righteousness." What are th			ese legal term	s "justification"
Justification:				
Righteousness:				
9) See the illustration below. Und justification is (or how one is justi	=		xplanation of	what spiritual
	GOD the Fa	ther (Judge)		
	,	•		esus Christ Advocate)

You (Guilty Sinner)



10) Now read James 2:20-26. Does James contradict the Biblical definition of justification? Explain your answer.