

**JAMES (LIVE LIKE IT) PART 5 – FAITH AND WORKS –
JAMES 2:14-26 - "No Root No Fruit"**

INTRO. IF YOU HAVE DRIVEN TO THE BEACH THIS SUMMER, YOU WILL NOTICE THE CARS BEGIN TO CHANGE. ONCE IN A WHILE YOU MAY SEE A FERRARI OR A LAMBORGHINI WITH THE DISTINCTIVE DOORS THAT OPEN UPWARD VS OUTWARD. THEY ARE FAST AND POWERFUL. SOME ARE ALL WHEEL DRIVE

SHOW PICS – THE LAMBORGHINI HARACAN SPYDER (2ND PIC) ALTHOUGH REAR WHEEL DRIVE, HAS A V10 580 HORSEPOWER ENGINE AND WILL GO FROM 0-62 MPH IN 3.6 SEC. WITH A TOP SPEED OF 198 MPH. OF COURSE THE GAS MLG. IS ABOUT 10-16 MPG. WHAT DO YOU THINK THE PRICE RANGE IS? MOST GO FROM \$200,000. – TO OVER \$500,000.

I WOULD NEVER BUY ONE, BUT MY YOUNGEST SON BOUGHT ONE A FEW YEARS AGO. (PICK UP CAR) HE PAID \$9.99 AT THE HOBBY STORE. IT HAS NO ENGINE. IT HAS NO POWER. IT WILL ONLY MOVE IF YOU PUSH IT. IT IS STILL COOL TO LOOK AT AND HAS THE SWITCH BLADE DOORS THAT OPEN

VERTICALLY, BUT IT IS *AN IMITATION OF THE REAL THING.*

IN JAMES CHAPTER 2, HE MAKES A GREAT POINT ABOUT FAITH AND WORKS. DON'T LET YOUR FAITH BE THE SAME AS THIS MODEL – A CHEAP IMITATION OF THE REAL THING – THE KIND OF BELIEF THAT MIGHT LOOK GOOD AT FIRST GLANCE, BUT HAS NO POWER. DOESN'T GO ANYWHERE. JUST KIND OF SITS THERE.

JAME AFTER TALKING TO CHRISTIANS DISPERSED ABOUT TRIALS, TEMPTATION, ANGER AND SHOWING PARTIALITY SEEMS TO BE SAYING THAT IF WE WOULD FOCUS MORE ON *DOING* THE WILL OF GOD WE WOULDN'T BE SO PREOCCUPIED WITH THESE OTHER ISSUES!

***READ *JAMES 2:14-26.* What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way,**

faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

18 But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

20 You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? 21 Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,”[b] and he was called God’s friend. 24 You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? 26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

I. JAMES 1:14 AND 17 – CAN FAITH WITHOUT FRUIT SAVE ANYBODY FROM ANYTHING?

A. THIS PASSAGE ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE A CONTRADICTION TO OTHER NEW TESTAMENT PASSAGES WE QUOTE OFTEN ON GRACE WRITTEN BY PAUL THE APOSTLE:

- **ROMANS 3:28. For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.**
- **Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.;**
- **Galatians 2:16 know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified. and v.21 -**

I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

***IS THERE A CONTRADICTION BETWEEN PAUL AND JAMES?**

B. ACTUALLY, WHAT WE SEE IN JAMES IS IN LINE WITH THE WHOLE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT:

- JOHN THE BAPTIST – MATTHEW 3:8. Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

- JESUS – MATT. 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.; MATT. 7:15-21

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who *does* the will of my Father who is in heaven.

- **PAUL IN ROMANS 2:6.** God “will repay each person according to what they have done.”

; 1 CORINTHIANS 3:8. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor.;

2 COR. 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

QUOTE – FAMOUS SCOTTISH COMMENTATOR WILLIAM BARCLAY:

“The fact Christianity must be ethically demonstrated is an essential part of the Christian faith throughout the New Testament.”

ANSWER TO THE SEEMING CONTRADICTION =
James is not condemning Paul’s teaching on grace, but the *twisting* of Paul’s teaching on grace.

- PAUL FOCUSES ON THE STARTING POINT OF FAITH – THAT WE CANNOT EARN FORGIVENESS OR JUSTIFICATION, THAT THESE COME TO US BY GRACE BECAUSE OF WHAT JESUS DID ON THE CROSS.

- JAMES FOCUS = ON *THE PROFESSING CHRISTIAN* WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED GOD’S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS, AND SAYS THAT GENUINE FAITH *RESULTS* IN GOOD WORKS.

Good works = fruit

Faith = Root

The fruit reflects the root. No fruit, no root. No root, no fruit.

IT’S AS SIMPLE AS THAT.

Paul and James don’t CONTRADICT they COMPLEMENT.

JAMES SUMS UP THE ARGUMENT IN **JAMES 1:26*

JUST AS THE BODY WITHOUT THE SPIRIT IS DEAD. . .FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD.

It is “Zombie faith”

IT IS A FAITH THAT IS WALKING AROUND LIFELESS AND INCOMPLETE. "ZOMBIE FAITH" CANNOT BRING ABOUT NEW LIFE. IT CAN'T SAVE YOU. IT IS HOLLOW. (NEXT TIME A BELIEVER YOU KNOW WELL = BEING A HYPOCRITE, ASK IF PRACTICING ZOMBIE FAITH? OR MAYBE JUST TELL THEM THEY ARE BEING A WHEENIE LAMBORGHINI – A CHEAP IMITATION OF THE REAL THING)

***WE SAID AT BEGINNING OF THIS SERIES**

James = God's antidote for hypocrisy.

THEME: “LIVE LIKE IT” IS BASED ON THIS PASSAGE AND OTHERS IN JAMES ABOUT THE BLESSING OF BEING DOERS OF THE WORD, DEF. OF TRUE RELIGION, ETC.

****LET ME EXPLAIN. . .**

D. 2 KINDS OF FAITH/BELIEF JAMES ADDRESSES HERE. . .

1. **Purely intellectual belief**

- **MY BROTHER AS AN ATHEIST INVESTIGATING THE EVIDENCE OF CHRISTIANITY VS MORMONISM. CALLED ME ONE DAY – “BECAUSE OF THE EVIDENCE FOR THE BIBLE AND CHRISTIANITY I AM CONVINCED, BUT NOT READY TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN AND CHANGE MY LIFESTYLE. – TOOK ANOTHER YEAR OR TWO. ASKED TO BE BAPTIZED – A FIRST “ACT OF FAITH” GOD GIVES US IN RESPONSE TO REPENTANCE. REPENTANCE ALWAYS GOES WITH BAPTISM. (ACTS 2:38)**

2. **Belief that acts**

WE “LIVE LIKE IT”. WE REPENT, DIE TO SELF, LIVE FOR CHRIST AND START PRODUCING FRUIT.

******IT IS THE *FIRST TYPE OF BELIEF/FAITH* (MENTAL ASCENT WITHOUT ACTION) THAT JAMES CONDEMNS******

JAMES 2:19 – “YOU BELIEVE THERE IS ONE GOD? GOOD FOR YOU!” (HE IS WRITING TO DISPERSED CHRISTIANS W. JEWISH HERITAGE WOULD REPEAT THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD – MORNING AND EVENING. UNLIKE THE POLYTHEISTIC CULTURE AROUND THEM.)

*****JAMES SAYS – THAT’S NOT ENOUGH! EVEN THE DEMONS BELIEVE THAT AND THEY EVEN TREMBLE AT THE THOUGHT! (WORD USED – HAIRS ON YOUR ARMS STANDING UP – CHECK OUT THE FRANCIS CHAN SERIES ON JAMES IN RIGHTNOWMEDIA). OUR TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY.**

****BUT THE DEVIL HAS NO GOOD WORKS. DEAD FAITH WITHOUT ACTION IS NOT ONLY “ZOMBIE FAITH”, *IT’S THE SAME KIND THE DEMONS HAVE* – THEY EVEN APPRECIATE THE AWESOME POWER OF GOD – BUT THAT DOESN’T SAVE YOU FROM ETERNAL SEPARATION FROM GOD!**

****YOU SAY, WHAT ABOUT **JOHN 3:16?** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

GK. “PISTIS” – RESPONSE – ACTIVE FAITH.

JOHN 3:36. (NASB) He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” –

INTERCHANGES WORD “OBEY” FOR BELIEF. AN OBEDIENT ACTIVE FAITH IS THE KIND THAT SAVES, NOT EMPTY INTELLECTUAL ASCENT WITHOUT ANY FRUIT. SAVING BELIEF IS THE KIND THAT PENETRATES EVERY PART OF OUR LIFESTYLE.

II. EXAMPLES OF FAITH IN ACTION

A. OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD GIVING

***FIRST PASTOR (IN BEACH AREA) AFTER I PREACHED ON REACHING OUT TO THE POOR – “YOU DON’T TALK TO RICH PEOPLE ABOUT HELPING THE POOR. THAT’S NOT GOING TO HELP OUR CHURCH GROW!”**

****YET HERE JAMES USES REACHING OUT TO THE POOR AS EXAMPLE OF A FAITH THAT IS ALIVE.**

JAMES 2:15-16 – ASKS “WHAT GOOD IS IT IF WE JUST SAY – GOD BLESS, BE WARMED AND FILLED. GOD BLESS YOU! **HERE’S A FIDGET SPINNER TO**

**USE WHILE YOU'RE SITTING THERE, NOW GO AWAY!
WHAT GOOD IS IT?**

***GREAT OPP. YESTERDAY – “BACK TO SCHOOL JAM
– MICAH HOUSE – GREAT CHANCE TO GIVE AND
FOLLOW UP. MANY WOULD RATHER GIVE TO A
STRANGER AND BE DONE. DOES SOME GOOD, BUT
WHAT ABOUT FOLLOWING UP ON THAT PERSON –
GIVING THEM A CHANCE TO HEAR THE GOSPEL
MORE THAN ONCE AND CONNECT TO A
FELLOWSHIP? 8 KIDS ON WAITING LIST!**

****WHY I LIKE CONNECTING AS A CHURCH WITH
MINISTRIES LIKE MICAH HOUSE LOCALLY OR
FAMILY SERVICE – OR INTERNATIONALLY WITH
COMPASSION, WORLD VISION, IJM. VS JUST GIVING
TO A GUY ON THE OFF RAMP.**

****JAMES IS TEACHING REAL HELPING VS
ENABLING. SEE 1 TIMOTHY 5 FOR CONDITIONS IN
THE CHURCH.**

POINT OF JAMES 2:18

**- FAITH AND GOOD WORKS ARE INSEPARABLE.
Two sides of the same coin.**

****BUT PLEASE NOTE: We are not *saved* by faith AND good works. (cults who agree we are saved by faith, then add a dozen other laws to earn “exaltation” = godhood).**

WE ARE SAVED/FORGIVEN AND JUSTIFIED IN GOD’S EYES BY THE KIND OF FAITH THAT *PRODUCES* GOOD WORKS AND A CHRISTLIKE LIFESTYLE. NOT MERE MENTAL ASCENT.

(THAT’S JUST BEING “SPIRITUALLY CONSTIPATED”. EVERYTHING GOING IN, BUT NOTHING COMING OUT!)

We are not saved **BY good works, but **FOR** good works.**

JAMES GIVES 2 MORE EXAMPLES BEFORE WE QUIT TODAY SO WE UNDERSTAND. . .

B. ABRAHAM – GENESIS 22:1-12. Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!”

B. “Here I am,” he replied.² Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

B.

B. ³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.”***

B.

B. ⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?”

B.

B. **“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.**

B.

B. **“The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”**

B.

B. **8 Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.**

B.

B. **9 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. 12 “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.” LIFEHOUSE - GOOD JOB DEPICTING THIS.**

***HE WAS WILLING TO OBEY GOD NO MATTER WHAT.
HE ACTUALLY LIFTED THE KNIFE BEFORE GOD
STOPPED HIM.**

****THAT KIND OF ACTIVE, OBEDIENT RESPONSE/
BELIEF WAS “CREDITED” TO HIM AS
RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

****JEWISH BELIEVERS THAT JAMES WRITES TO
MIGHT RESPOND WITH, “BUT THAT’S ABRAHAM –
THE FATHER OF FAITH.” OF COURSE HE WOULD DO
THAT!**

**B. JAMES - OK, WHAT ABOUT RAHAB THE HARLOT?
JOSHUA 2:8-15**

**8 Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up
on the roof 9 and said to them, “I know that the Lord
has given you this land and that a great fear of you
has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are
melting in fear because of you. 10 We have heard how
the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea[a] for you
when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to
Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of
the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed.[b] 11
When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and
everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord**

your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.

12 “Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign 13 that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death.”

14 “Our lives for your lives!” the men assured her. “If you don’t tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the Lord gives us the land.”

15 So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall.

***AS A RESULT, INCLUDED IN THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS. THAT IS GRACE!**

**** YOU SEE - It's not either/or, it's both/and**

**ABRAHAM'S WILLINGNESS TO OBEY/RAHAB'S HELP
= RESULTS OF OBEDIENT FAITH. THAT KIND OF
FAITH SAVES.**

CONCLUSION:

**SO HOW ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU TRYING TO DRIVE
YOUR CAR WITHOUT AN ENGINE?**

**IF ANYONE LOOKED TO YOU AS AN EXAMPLE OF
SAVING FAITH, WOULD THEY NOTICE A DIFFERENCE
IN YOUR TOTAL LIFESTYLE?**

Not perfect, but growing?

**-DO YOU USE GRACE AS AN EXCUSE TO NOT DO A
GOOD WORK because it has nothing to do with your
Salvation!**

- DO YOU CLAIM TO LOVE JESUS BUT LIVE WITH
YOUR BOYFRIEND, GIRLFRIEND, OR "FIANCEE"
misusing God's grace?**

- **SAY GOD = #1 BUT YOU SHOW UP WITH HIS BRIDE AND FAMILY (THE CHURCH) 12 SUNDAYS OUT OF 52? (LESS THAN A 4TH – AND THAT’S JUST SHOWING UP)**

- **GIVE GOD THE LEFTOVERS? (GOD SAYS WE SHOULD BUY THIS WAY, NOT GIVE THIS WAY.) DO YOU SERVE AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR GIVING, OR DO BOTH OUT OF LOVE? (CHURCH IN ACTS)**

- **(HOPE YOU DON'T TREAT *YOUR* BRIDE THAT WAY!)**

- **WE ARE NOT SAVED BY LAW/10 COMMANDMENTS – BUT DOES THAT MEAN WE DON’T LIVE BY THEM? THEY COME FROM THE HEART OF GOD (GO THRU A FEW – EVEN REST IS BUILT IN.) “THE LAW OF LIBERTY/LOVE”.**

- **WHEN YOU LOVE SOMEONE IT SHOWS!**

- **NONE ARE PERFECT - why we need grace, but WHAT ARE YOU CHARACTERIZED BY? WHAT IS ONE AREA YOU COULD IMPROVE STARTING THIS WEEK?**

****HARD QUESTIONS, BUT WHAT IF WE DON'T ASK?**

****SOME OF YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE,
BUT . . .**

We will never influence the world by being just like it.

- **THE WORLD WILL NOT BE DRAWN TO CHRIST
BY OUR HYPOCRISY.**

****WHAT ABOUT THE THIEF ON THE CROSS? . . .HE
WAS NAILED TO A PIECE OF WOOD. DO YOU THINK
HE WOULD HAVE DONE MORE IF HE COULD?**

****IF INCAPACITATED BY AN ILLNESS OR SETBACK,
WE CAN PRAY (My Mom), WORSHIP, DEFEAT THE
DEVIL.**

****TIME TO LET THE FRUIT REFLECT THE ROOT. TIME
TO DO AWAY WITH "ZOMBIE FAITH" AND EMBRACE
THE LIVING GOD WITH A LIVING FAITH – WORSHIP,
SERVE, FELLOWSHIP, SHARE. LOVE GOD, LOVE
PEOPLE, SERVE THE WORLD.**

FAITH AND WORKS. THE TWO ARE INSEPARABLE IF WE ARE LIVING DAILY AS A CHRIST FOLLOWER.

****NEXT WK. JAMES 3 – “HOW TO TAME THE TONGUE” AS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW CHANGE ON THE INSIDE REFLECTS ON THE OUTSIDE. hard, but possible with God.**

PRAY