

James - Faith @ Work | An Expositional Sermon Series

James 2:14-19 | Pt. 11 | "The Bible's Blueprint for Faith & Works" (Pt 1) | July 19th, 2026

Review / Summary:

The sermon explored James 2:14-19, examining the critical relationship between faith and works in the Christian life. James confronts us with a sobering reality: it's easy to claim faith, but genuine biblical faith always produces tangible action. Using practical examples and thought-provoking illustrations, we saw how counterfeit faith—faith that exists only as intellectual agreement or cultural identity—stands in stark contrast to the vibrant, life-changing faith that transforms how we live and love others. This passage calls us to examine whether our faith in Jesus Christ is authentic, demonstrated not by our words alone but by our actions that reflect His love and compassion.

Key Takeaways:

- 1. Real faith is more than intellectual agreement** - Anyone can claim to have faith, but genuine faith transforms how we live.
- 2. Faith and works are inseparable** - Authentic faith in Jesus naturally produces loving actions toward others.
- 3. Cultural Christianity isn't enough** - Simply identifying as a believer without life change is not biblical faith.
- 4. Faith is proven through action** - Our works don't save us, but they reveal whether our faith is real.
- 5. The power is in the Object of our faith** - It's not the strength of our faith that saves us, but the One in whom we place our faith—Jesus Christ.

Practical Applications: What This Means For You (Choose One or Two to Try This Week)

Option 1: Faith Inventory

- Set aside 30 minutes for honest self-reflection
- Ask yourself: "What good is my faith producing?"
- List specific ways your faith in Jesus has resulted in tangible actions in the past month
- Identify one area where you claim faith but see little corresponding action

Option 2: Love in Action

- Identify someone in need (like James's example in verses 15-16)
- Meet a practical need this week: provide food, clothing, help with bills, offer your time
- Reflect afterward: How did this action flow from your faith? What did you learn?

Option 3: Examine Your "Why"

- List the "good works" or service you're currently doing
- Honestly ask yourself the motivation behind each one
- Are you trying to earn God's favor, or are these natural expressions of gratitude for salvation already received? Adjust your heart posture where needed

Going Deeper into James 2:14-19:

- 1. Read James 2:14-19.** What stands out to you most from this passage? What questions does it raise?

2. In Your Own Words: How do verses 15-16 illustrate the problem of faith without works? Can you think of modern examples?

3. The Faith vs. Works Tension: How do we reconcile James's teaching with Paul's emphasis on salvation by faith alone (Ephesians 2:8-9)? How are both true?

4. James says even demons believe in God and shudder (v. 19). What's the difference between demonic belief and saving faith?

Questions for Reflection:

1. How does the individualistic mentality of live and let live conflict with the biblical truth that there is only one way to salvation through Jesus Christ?

2. When you examine your own heart and actions, what evidence do you find that your faith is producing the fruit of love and compassion that mirrors Jesus?

3. Why do you think it is so easy in our culture to claim faith in Christ without allowing that faith to fundamentally change how we treat others and live our lives?

4. The placebo effect illustration shows that belief has power, but true faith depends on the object of that faith. How does placing your faith specifically in Jesus rather than faith itself change everything?

Memory Verse: Galatians 5:6

"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love."

Spend Time Praying This Week:

- For God to reveal any counterfeit faith in your (and ours - the church) hearts
- For genuine, active faith that flows from love for Jesus
- That you would be known by your love and good works that point to Christ