

## **Introduction**

1. Faith is a key element in the Christian life...
  - a. Sinners are saved by faith (Ephesians 2:8-9), and the believer must walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7).
  - b. Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6) and whatever we do apart from faith is sin (Romans 14:23).
2. James 2:14-26 teaches the relationship between faith and works. This is important because if we are wrong in this matter we jeopardize our salvation! How can I tell if I have true saving faith?

### **I. Dead Faith (James 2:14-17)**

- a. What Is This Kind Of Faith?
  - i. It is a faith that substitutes words for deeds.
  - ii. James illustrates this in v16. To help a person is an expression of love and faith works by love (Galatians 5:6).
- b. Can This Kind Of Faith Save?
  - i. NO! Three times James says that faith without works is dead (2:17, 20, 26).
  - ii. A person with a dead faith has only the intellectual experience. He knows what is right but their life bears no fruit of this knowledge.
- c. Do We Have This Kind Of Faith?
  - i. We do ,if our walk does not measure up to our talk! Or if our works do not measure up to our words!

### **II. Demonic Faith (James 2:18-19)**

- a. What Is This Kind Of Faith?
  - i. It is the kind of faith that has intellect and emotion just like the demons who believe and tremble.
- b. Can This Kind Of Faith Save?
  - i. NO! A person can be enlightened in their mind and even stirred in the heart and still be lost forever! Salvation is not just to believe and tremble.
  - ii. Saving faith is more than this for it is seen and recognized in a changed life (2:18).
- c. Do We Have This Kind Of Faith?
  - i. We do if we just believe the right things and feel the right things. Or if our service to God does not go beyond the intellect and experiences.

### **III. Dynamic Faith (James 2:20-26)**

- a. What Is This Kind Of Faith?
  - i. Dynamic faith that is real, with faith that has power and results in a changed life. James says it is based on the Word of God (1:18,21). It will involve the entire person.
  - ii. For dynamic faith touches not only the intellect, the emotions but the will. It is a heart that will understand truth, desire truth and act upon truth! It leads to action as illustrated with Abraham and Rahab.
- b. The Need To Examine Ourselves – Do you have dynamic faith? Here are some questions to ask...(See back)

1. Was there a time when I honestly realized I was a sinner and admitted this to myself and to God?
2. Was there a time when my heart stirred me to flee from the wrath to come? Have I ever been seriously worked up over my sins?
3. Do I truly understand the gospel that Christ died for MY sins and then rose again? Do I understand and confess that I cannot save myself?
4. Did I sincerely repent of my sins, making the decision to turn from them? Do I now hate sin and fear God? Or do I secretly love sin and want to enjoy it?
5. Have I trusted Christ and Him alone for my salvation by responding to the commands He has given? Have I confessed my faith in Christ and then been baptized for the remission of my sins as He and His apostles commanded?
6. Has there been a change in my life? Do I maintain good works, or are my good works occasional and weak? Do I seek to grow in the things of the Lord? Can others tell that I have been with Jesus?
7. Do I have a desire to share Christ with others? Or am I ashamed of Him?
8. Do I enjoy the fellowship of God's people? Is worship a delight to me?
9. Am I ready for the Lord's return? Or will I be ashamed when He comes for me?