

PROFESSING TO HAVE FAITH, BUT WORKS ARE ABSENT

James 2:14-26

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: One of the saddest things about the church today is that so many people profess Jesus Christ but do not live for Him. They do not live pure and righteous lives nor do they give all that they are to reach the lost and needy of the world. So there's a question: ARE THEY REALLY SAVED?

I. TWO QUESTIONS EVERY BELIEVER NEEDS TO ASK HIM/HERSELF

1. James 2:14
2. Can a person have faith and not do any good works? Can faith without any good works save a person?
 - A person who really believes something DOES something.
 - Millions of people profess faith in Jesus Christ and belong to a church, but yet do not live for Him.
 - The only difference between these people and the unbelievers is their sometimes church attendance.
3. The person SAYS he/she has faith.
 - There is NOTHING to show that he/she really believes in Christ, only his/her words.
 - That person's faith is only a faith of PROFESSION, not POSSESSION.
4. The faith of a false profession is:
 - a dead faith, an unprofitable faith, a vain, empty faith, a hollow faith, a wordy faith, a spurious faith, a Christless faith.
5. It is not enough to claim that one has faith and then not live for Christ. One must DO what Christ says.

II. A DESTITUTE CHRISTIAN BELIEVER EXAMPLE

1. James 2:15-17
2. A brother or sister faces some need or problem that makes him/her destitute and a Christian shares words of comfort with them, perhaps giving them a few items to help their situation.
 - DID THAT PERSON GIVE THEM THE THINGS THEY REALLY NEEDED?
3. Faith, if it does not do good works is DEAD.
 - One can talk about believing in Jesus until blue in the face, but if he/she is not reaching out to help those in need, as Jesus did, his/her faith is dead.
 - If one truly believes in Jesus, he/she will do all that is necessary to help that needy person.
4. Matthew 19:21-22; Mark 10:28; Matthew 25:41-46; Luke 9:23; 14:23-27; Acts 9:36; 1 Timothy 6:17-18

III. AN EXAMPLE OF TWO ARROGANT MEN

1. James 2:18
2. One man says he believes that he is saved by faith in Jesus, even though he fails to live for Christ.
 - Once he says he believes in Jesus, joins a church, been baptized and that is all that is needed.

- Matthew 7:21; Mark 7:6; Titus 1:16

3. The other man claims to have works and that God accepts him because he does good works and lives as good a life as he can. If a person does this, God will never reject him.

- Matthew 7:22

4. IT IS NOT A MATTER OF FAITH OR WORKS. A true believers works for Christ.

- Matthew 5:16; Luke 10:37; John 5:36; 1 Peter 2:12; Matthew 7:21-23; Mark 7:6; Titus 1:16

IV. AN EXAMPLE OF BELIEF IN GOD ONLY

1. James 2:19-20

2. A person believes in God and says that that is all he/she needs for salvation.

- There is a DEAD belief and a LIVING belief, one can lead to salvation and the other does not.

- Demons, evil spirits believe in God, but are not saved. Matthew 8:29

3. Do not be vain, empty, useless, foolish for true faith is a living faith, a faith that works.

- Matthew 5:16; Titus 2:11o-015; Hebrews 10:23-24; 1 Peter 2:11-12

V. THE EXAMPLE OF ABRAHAM

1. James 2:21-24

2. Abraham proved that he was justified by what he did - his works. His faith was proven to be a true and living faith by his works.

- His faith was acted out and proven by his works.

- His faith proved to be a complete faith.

- His faith fulfilled the Scripture because 30 years before the event of sacrificing his son, he had already been justified by God.

- He believed, therefore he did what God said.

3. Faith only is DEAD faith, an inactive and worthless faith.

- Matthew 5:16; Ephesians 6:7; 1 Thessalonians 1:3; Hebrews 12:28; Psalm 2:11

VI. THE EXAMPLE OF RAHAB

1. James 2:25-26

2. Rahab is given as an example that even the lowest person who claims belief in God must do good works, clean up their lives and follow God as "proof" of real faith.

- She believed in God, therefore, she acted. She "put feet to her faith."

CONCLUSION:

1. When our bodies die, they do not move, act, work or are alive. They are totally useless, lifeless, worthless.

2. Faith without works is like one's dead body. It does not move, act, live, work is useless, worthless.

3. Galatians 6:2, 10; 1 Timothy 6:17-18; James 4:17

4. "But wilt thou know....that faith without works is dead?"

