

# DEVOTED

## DEVOTED: TRUE FAITH

### James 2:14-26

2:14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

2:15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food,

2:16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

2:17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

2:18 But 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.

2:19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

2:20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?

2:22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;

2:23 and 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.

2:24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

2:25 And 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?

2:26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

### Study Questions

1. What is the problem?

2. What is James' solution?

3. What four illustrations does he use to make his point?

4. How can we reconcile James with Paul, who said:

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.* (Eph. 2:8-9; cf. Rom. 3:28 and Gal. 2:16)

### Discussion/Application Questions

1. Do the words you speak about God agree with your life that you live for God? Does your life match what you say/believe about God?

2. What is your attitude when you approach the Bible? Are you tempted to think there are contradictions in the Bible? Or skip certain parts of the Bible? How does your attitude regarding the Bible affect your daily time in God's Word?

3. How does God want you to apply this passage to your own life? What are you going to do as a result of studying this passage? Who is going to help you keep yourself accountable for change?