

# Enlightened: Part 2- Faith and Works

## ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

1. What's one thing you want to do in life but don't know where to start?
2. How do you get motivated for difficult tasks?

## WORD

“Faith and works were mentioned 7 times on the second chapter of James.

True and genuine faith in Christ results in genuine change and will be accompanied by works or actions. James is emphasizing that genuine salvation is based on works which can be observed by man, while Paul teaches that genuine salvation is based on a sincere heart, heart-faith which can only be seen by God. Paul is talking about the ROOT of justification, which is by faith, while James is talking about the FRUIT of justification, which is by works.

### ***James 2:14-17 (NIV)***

*14 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.*

## DISCUSSION

A person makes a profession of faith, gets involved in serving the Lord, but then falls away. How can we know if his faith was genuine or false? Explain

## WORD

It is under these circumstances that James starts to address the important issue of faith - a living faith - a demonstrable faith - a faith that honours God and demonstrates true Christian character.

He quite correctly stated that Christian faith should be accompanied by acts of kindness, good deeds, and worthy works. He explains that good works, kind actions, and generous gestures, should be the *identifying mark* of every children of God - and no believer would argue with this position.

The fruit identifies your mark, of who you are.

*James 2:17*

*17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

## DISCUSSION

A new believer tells you, “I think that my heart is changed, but I still am drawn toward old sins.” What would be your counsel?

## WORD

James 2:20 says 20 You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?

These are the words of the apostle reassuming the argument, that faith without works is dead, useless, and unprofitable; and the man that boasts of his faith, and has no works to show it, he calls a "*useless*", an empty faith, sounding brass, and a tinkling cymbal; empty vessels make the greatest sound; such are proud boasters, vainly puffed up by their fleshly mind;

James used the word useless, this is very strong word.

What Jesus says about a branch that doesn't bear fruits.

*John 15:2 (NIV)*

*2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.*

***James 2:18-20 (NIV)***

*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?*

James used two examples

1. Abraham’s faith - “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. James 2:22, 24

2. Rahab’s faith - Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?

***James 2:25 (NIV)***

## **DISCUSSION**

Share a time when your faith is fading and how did you come back to faith? What did you do?

## **LIFE APPLICATION**

***\*True and genuine faith in Christ results in genuine change and will produce fruits***

***\*True and genuine faith in Christ results in genuine change and known for good works.***

***\*True and genuine faith in Christ results in genuine change and true knowledge of God, and of the faith of Christ, and of the grace of the Spirit.***

## **VERSE TO MEDITATE ON**

*26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.*

*James 2:26*

## **PRAYER**

Share your answered prayer. Pray for one another and throughout this week.