

Series: BeReal.
Passage: James 2:14-26
Sunday: July 6, 2025

James 2:14-26 (ESV)

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 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} is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

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. ¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! ²⁰ Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; 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. ²⁴ You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. 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? ²⁶ For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

1. How are you affected when a person says they care about you deeply but there are no actions behind their words?

2. Does this passage contradict the idea of salvation by faith alone? Why or why not?

3. In your own words, explain the meaning (and your understanding) of James 2:18.

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4. How could verse 19 highlight the danger of being self-deceived about our faith?

5. What specific good deeds and truths about God is He convicting and calling you to believe right now? What are you going to do to pursue it?

6. What can you learn from Abraham and Rahab's examples to encourage your own faith to do everything in faith?

7. Why are good deeds without faith not good enough in God's eyes? Contrasting that, why is faith without good deeds not enough in God's eyes?