

“Does Your Faith Work?”

James 5:19-20

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I. Introduction

- A. “What does it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?” (James 2:14)
 - 1. The book of James is about a faith that works
 - 2. A faith that is real
 - 3. If you say you believe as you should, why do you behave like you shouldn't?
- B. Ask yourself these 10 questions to see if your faith is real

II. How Do I Respond to Trials? (James 1:2-5)

- A. Do I count it all joy? (James 1:2)
 - 1. “My brethren...”
- B. Do I know that trials are for my good? (James 1:3)
- C. Do I let God work in my life? (James 1:4)
- D. Do I ask God for wisdom? (James 1:5)
 - 1. A faith that works grows stronger through trials
 - 2. The same sun that melts wax hardens clay

III. Do I Resist Temptation? (James 1:13-18)

- A. Remember its source (James 1:13-14)
- B. Remember its course (James 1:14b-15)
- C. Remember, it can be conquered
 - 1. God's goodness (James 1:17)
 - 2. A new nature (James 1:18)
 - 3. A faith that works resists temptation
 - 4. “There hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you...” (1 Corinthians 10:13)

IV. Am I a Doer of the Word? (James 1:19-22)

- A. Do I hear the Word? (James 1:19)
- B. Do I receive the Word? (James 1:21)
- C. Do I obey the Word? (James 1:22)
 - 1. A faith that works obeys the Word of God
 - 2. Do you find joy in obeying God's Word?
 - 3. “Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart” (Psalm 119:2)

V. Do I Show Partiality? (James 2)

- A. Four reasons true Christians don't show partiality

1. It's inconsistent with faith in Christ (James 2:1)
2. It's inconsistent with God's actions (James 2:5)
3. It's breaking God's Law (James 2:8-9)
4. It brings God's judgment (James 2:12-13)
 - a) A faith that works doesn't show partiality, but instead shows love to all
 - b) Do you show partiality?

VI. Am I Able to Tame My Tongue? (James 3)

- A. "For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body" (James 3:2)
 1. "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is in vain" (James 1:26)
 2. A faith that works has power over the tongue

VII. Do I Follow Earthly Wisdom of Heavenly Wisdom? (James 3)

- A. Test yourself
 1. Your marriage?
 2. Your home?
 3. Your other relationships?
 4. Faith that works produces peace

VIII. Do I Humbly Submit to God's Will and Plans for My Life? (James 3)

- A. Do you seek God's will in your plans?
 1. "For that ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil" (James 4:15-16)
 2. A faith that works submits to God's will, purpose, and plan in their life
 - a) (Romans 12)

IX. Do I Patiently Await the Lord's Return? (James 5)

- A. "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord" (James 5:7)
 1. The farmer "working" (v. 7)
 2. The prophets' "witnessing" (v. 10)
 3. The man, Job, "waiting" (v. 11)
 4. A faith that works is long-suffering and waits for the Lord's return

X. Am I Prayerful Until the Lord's Return? (James 5)

- A. When I am sad
 1. "Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray." (James 5:13)
- B. When I am glad
 1. "Is any merry? Let him sing psalms." (James 5:13)
- C. When I am sick
 1. "Is any sick among you..." (James 5:14)

2. A faith that works is prayerful until Jesus comes
- D. When I am in sin
1. "...and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him" (James 5:15)

XI. Do I Seek to Win Those Who Are Gone Astray? (James 5:19-20)

- A. Two ways to interpret it
1. Both are biblical
 2. If you have a faith that works, you will seek to restore a fallen brother or sister
 3. The hypothetical case (v. 19)
 - a) "Brethren"
 1. All Christians, not just pastors
 - b) "If any among you"
 - c) How?
 1. Belief and behavior
 2. And one converts him
 4. The results of restoration (v. 20)
 - a) Save a soul from death
 - b) Shall hide a multitude of sins
 5. The method of restoration
 - a) Love for those in error
 1. True Christian
 2. Professing Christian
 - b) Pray for them
 1. Illustration- Jesus with Peter
 2. They may not let you speak to them about God, but they can't stop you from talking to God about them
 3. It makes us like Jesus
 - a. Illustration- Lost sheep
 - b. Jesus came to seek and save the lost
 - c) Go in humility
 1. (Galatians 6:1)
 2. Leave the 99