



Leader

9/13 - James 2:14-26

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week? Any new life updates? How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Practically, is there any individual or family that needs encouragement from us as a group?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?

[Open Discussion]

2. Let's read our primary text. What is James' basic argument here?

James isn't questioning whether faith saves, he's questioning whether the kind of "faith" that produces zero action deserves to be called faith at all.

3. What point does the illustration in verses 15-16 make?

The point is that empty words which never translate into meeting a real need are worthless; James is showing, by analogy, that "faith" which never translates into corresponding action is just as worthless words without substance.

4. What does the example of the demons in verse 19 show about mere intellectual belief?

If merely intellectual assent to true doctrine were enough to save, demons would be saved. Therefore, faith must produce transformational obedience.

5. Verse 24 says a person is "justified by works and not by faith alone." How does this fit with Paul's teaching that we are justified by faith apart from works of the law (e.g., Rom. 3:28; Gal. 2:16)?

James and Paul are using "justified" and "faith" to answer different questions, not contradicting each other. Paul addresses how a sinner is first declared righteous before God, by faith alone, apart from works that earn merit. James addresses how that faith is *shown to be real*, vindicated as genuine before others (and demonstrated to be alive) by the works it produces. Both agree real faith always produces works (cf. Gal. 5:6, "faith working through love"); they're simply answering "What justifies us before God?" (Paul) versus "What proves our faith is genuine?" (James).

6. Why does James also cite Rahab (v. 25), and what does pairing her with Abraham add?

Rahab (Josh. 2) was a Gentile, a former prostitute, and about as far from Abraham's status as a patriarch as possible, yet her faith, too, was proven genuine by a concrete act (hiding and helping the Israelite spies at personal risk). Pairing the most exalted example (Abraham, father of the faithful) with the most unlikely one (Rahab) shows the principle is universal: it doesn't matter who you are...real faith, in anyone, acts.

7. What is the concluding analogy in verse 26, and what final point does it drive home?
“As the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.” Just as a body without its spirit (breath/life) is merely a corpse, faith without works is not a lesser form of faith but a lifeless one. It closes the section by restating the thesis of verse 17 with a vivid image: works aren’t optional decoration on faith, they’re the sign that faith is actually alive.
8. Where in your own life is there a gap between what you say you believe and your actions show?
How does this text direct you moving forward?
[\[Open Discussion\]](#)
9. Any other thoughts you would like to share before we wrap up this text?
[\[Open Discussion\]](#)

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- *Internal*: Did you make time to disciple your family this week? Pray with them?
- *External*: Is your life marked by joy/contentment? Are you prepared to share the gospel if the Holy Spirit prompted? Is the name of Jesus on your lips in your day-to-day activity?

CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today," ... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group (generally)? [*apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy*]
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives.

Sources:

- ESV Study Bible Commentary
- GotQuestions.org
- Multiple AI Resources