

# Dead Faith, Part 1

*John MacArthur*

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: James 2:14-26.
- B. Faith, if it has not works, is dead.
- C. Many people possess nothing more than a dead faith.

II. Dead faith is a form of non-saving belief.

- A. It is religion without reality.
- B. There is a non-saving faith that works--this is legalism. However, the concern of James is an absence of any evidence of transformation.
- C. The presence of external good works does not necessarily indicate that one is a believer, but the absence of good works indicates that someone is not a believer.

III. Many people believe the right ideas but are not saved.

- A. If you stay long enough in a ministry, you will find out where the true faith is really at.
- B. James came giving a system of grace, but the people erred in thinking that all they had to do was believe.
- C. We must run to Christ not simply as a liberty from legalism. True belief is accompanied by the fruit of righteousness.

**Application Questions:**

1. What is legalism?

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2. Does James teach that a person is saved by doing good works? Explain.

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3. How should a Christian engage and think about good deeds in a healthy way? Explain.

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