

Dead Faith, Part 2

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: James 2:14-end.
- B. Theme: dead faith.
- C. The distinguishing mark of dead faith is an absence of righteous deeds.
- D. A true test of living faith is obedience, the controlled tongue, concern for the needy, cleanliness from the world, impartiality, wisdom from above and humility.
- E. Some are only interested in liberation from the consequence of sin and not righteousness.

II. The character of dead faith.

- A. Empty confession. (Matthew 7)
 - 1. Where there is a work of God there will be evidence.
 - 2. The only way to know someone possesses saving faith is by their works.
 - 3. Real confession is...
 - a. Endurance in difficulty. (Matthew 13)
 - 1) Nothing reveals enduring faith more than a trial.
 - 2) Our response to circumstances reveals faith.
 - b. The bridling of the tongue.
 - c. Showing mercy.
 - 4. Without works, faith is illegitimate. (Romans 2:1, Matthew 25:31)
 - 5. This does not mean we are saved by works.
 - 6. Faith produces work. (John 8:31)
 - 7. There is a transformation--a turning of affections. (Acts 19, 1 Thessalonians 1, 1 John 2)
 - 8. This calls for self-examination.
- B. False compassion. True love is in deed and truth. (1 John 3:17)
- C. Shallow conviction.

1. Orthodox theology is not enough. (Deuteronomy 6:4)

2. Belief must be relational.

3. Belief is not temporary. (Hebrews 6, 2 Peter 2:20)

4. Fruitless faith is a useless faith.

III. The character of living faith.

A. Abraham's faith was demonstrated by his works. (Genesis 15:6, Romans 4)

B. Rahab's faith was justified by works. (Hebrews 11:31, Joshua 2:12-22)

C. The body without the spirit is dead and faith without works is dead also.

IV. Conclusion.

Application Questions:

1. How would you respond to someone who says that it is wrong to judge them by what they do in light of the message?

2. How does your faith hold up to the works test?

3. Does a faith that works demand perfection? Explain.
