

A CALL TO ACTION

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James 2:14-26

My dear brothers and sisters, what good is it if someone claims to have faith but demonstrates no good works to prove it? How could this kind of faith save anyone? For example, if a brother or sister in the faith is poorly clothed and hungry and you leave them saying, “Good-bye. I hope you stay warm and have plenty to eat,” but you don’t provide them with a coat or even a cup of soup, what good is your faith? So, then faith that doesn’t involve action is phony.

- This is a call to action!
- Earlier in this chapter James talks about the royal law of love...
- Love is a verb...
- Love ALWAYS involves some form of ACTION.
- All talk and no show is phony!

Verse 18-19:

But someone might object and say, “One person has faith and another person has works.” Go ahead then and prove to me that you have faith without works and I will show you faith **by** my works as proof that I believe. You can believe all you want that there is one true God, that’s wonderful! But even the demons know this and tremble with fear before Him, *yet they’re unchanged—they remain demons.*

- What James is talking about here is your MOTIVE.
- The Christian faith is NOT a religion where you have to fulfill a set of laws and DO THE RIGHT THING...
- The Christian faith is a covenant relationship in which Father God ‘fathers you’ by showing you who you really are—who you were created to be...
- Jesus is the revealed IMAGE of God, so we look at Jesus to learn who we are; what our motive is; what our attitudes should be; how we are to behave; what actions we are to have.
- So, our ACTIONS spring from the pure motive of love because that is WHO we ARE—NOT WHAT WE DO...
- The grace of God transforms us into the LOVE of God through faith—through what we believe about Jesus...
- AND THAT FAITH IS SEEN IN OUR ACTIONS...
- We are changed...

- The demons believe, but that belief does not change them—they remain the same.
- DON'T BE LIKE THE DEMONS!

Verse 20-24

O feeble sons of Adam, do you need further evidence that faith divorced from good works is phony? Wasn't our ancestor Abraham found righteous before God because of his works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? Can't you see how his action cooperated with his faith and by his action faith found its full expression? So, in this way the Scripture was fulfilled: Because Abraham believed God, his faith was exchanged for God's righteousness. So, he became known as the lover of God! So now it's clear that a person is seen as righteous in God's eyes not merely by faith alone, but by his works.

- Faith is heard through your words...
- Faith is seen through your actions...
- It is by our actions that faith finds its full expression...

Verse 25-26:

And the same is true of the prostitute named Rahab who was found righteous in God's eyes by her works, for she received the spies into her home and helped them escape from the city by another route. For just as a human body without the spirit is a dead corpse, so faith without the expression of good works is dead!

- Notice the word 'expression'...
- This is talking about who you are and not something you DO...
- Good works is the expression of the love of God...
- Good works is how the children of God express themselves!
- Begin to see yourself as who you truly are—the love of God in the flesh!
- And begin to express yourself in the opportunities of good works that Abba makes available to you every day!

Let's look at the example King Jehoshaphat set for us to learn from.

2 Chronicles 20:1-30 AMP

- King Jehoshaphat received an intelligence report of allied forces marching to invade his Kingdom.
- His fear drove him to seek the LORD...
- He gave a call to action for his entire kingdom—a solemn fast.

- All of Judah gathered to ask help of the LORD.
- Notice the words of King Jehoshaphat...
- He has come before the Courts of Heaven...
- He is speaking eternal truths that already have been established in Heaven and they have now entered the earth.
- All of Judah is calling on the covenant obligations that bind Yehovah and Israel.
- Hear the king's faith: "YOU WILL HEAR AND SAVE".

Notice that it was only AFTER Jehoshaphat declared eternal truth and released his faith that he ever spoke of the PROBLEM~! **Verse 10-13**

- They presented the problem.
- They asked for help.
- They reaffirm their faith and trust in Him.
- AND THEN THEY WAITED FOR HIS INSTRUCTIONS....

Verse 14-19 THE LORD ANSWERS!

- The Holy Spirit came upon a Levite—a priest...
- Notice the first thing the Lord said—DO NOT BE AFRAID!
- He acknowledges His covenant obligation!
- It is HIS battle—not theirs.
- He instructs them to go out the next day and engage them.
- He even tells them where to find them!
- He tells them again—you will not need to fight this battle—it's Mine.
- Just take your positions; stand still; and see your deliverance—just watch what I will do!
- Notice the response of Judah: they worshipped the Lord and the worship team got up and led a loud and rowdy time of praise—THEY CELEBRATED AS IF THE BATTLE HAD ALREADY BEEN WON!!!

THAT'S FAITH IN ACTION!!!!

Verse 20-24:

- They rose early....
- They were intentional in their obedience to the instructions that the Lord had given them.
- The King encouraged them, releasing his faith through the words that he spoke.

- Then he put action to those words by placing the praise team out front...
- PRAISE WAS THE WEAPON OF CHOICE!
- Notice that AT THE MOMENT they began to sing....
- AT THAT MOMENT—Yehovah set ambushments against their enemies!
- They all turned on one another and slaughtered themselves!
- All this time Judah is having a traveling praise and worship set!
- When they arrive at the place where they are to stand—they see their deliverance—the multitude that had come to destroy them lay dead at their feet!

Verse 25-30

- The victory was so complete that it took three days for a whole nation to carry away the spoils of war!
- Notice what they did after they cleared the battlefield...
- They all assembled for the one purpose of blessing Yehovah...
- The Valley of Beracah is where God destroyed the enemies of Judah.
- After the valley was cleared and cleaned up Jehoshaphat and Judah came back to give thanks and bless Yehovah for all He had done for them.
- They renamed the place “the Valley of Blessing”.
- What the enemy meant for their destruction, Yehovah turned it into a blessing!
- That is just Who He is!
- This victory was so complete that the enemy left Judah alone—the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for God gave him rest round about!

The message today is a call to action!

- Learn from Jehoshaphat’s example.
- Let the love of God be seen in your actions.
- If you believe something, then DO something about it!

Example:

- If you believe strongly on the abortion issue—don’t just talk about it—DO SOMETHING!
- Be intentional on specific times of prayer for this issue.
- Call upon the Name of Jesus for covenant obligations to be fulfilled...
- Make phone calls, write letters, rally like-minded folks to do the same; speak to our leaders in person to challenge them to bring about real change.

- Seek God for His instructions and His plans.
- STOP TALKING NEGATIVE!
- Nothing will change if all you do is post and share posts on Facebook about this issue!
- Do something...
- And do it from the position of faith—always speaking the desired end-result!

Examples:

- Politics—do something...
- Culture wars...
- Poverty....
- Sickness and disease....
- Suicide....
- Bullying...
- Relationships....

The Church must get involved in every aspect of our society.

- We are the light of the world.
- We are the salt of the earth.
- We have the answer to every crisis.
- We have the authority and the power to establish God's will in the earth.

GET MOVING SAINTS! THIS IS A CALL TO ACTION!