

## Act by Faith

James 2:14-26

Key verse: 2:26

1. Read verse 14-17. James speaks of a person having faith without deeds and asks, "Can such faith save him?" Can it? From a worldly perspective, why is it so important to have deeds along with faith? Is this part of James a "Saving" text or a "Sign" text? What does Jesus say about faith and works (Matthew 7:26)? Proper motivation is important in understanding the value of our works. What are we being asked to do and why? (1 John 3:16-18) Give a modern example of the situation described in verses 15-16.

2. Read verses 18-19. What is the meaning of verse 18. Does James 2:18 contradict Paul in Romans 3:28 when he writes "man is justified (saved) by faith without the deeds (works) of the law"? What is the point of verse 2:19? Was Abraham saved by faith or works? (Genesis 15:3-6, Romans 4:3).

3. Read verses 20-24. Chronology is an important word when it comes to faith and works. Explain this example noting the sequence (Eph 2:8-9 and Eph 2:10). Was there a similar sequence in Abraham's story in verses 21-24?

4. Read verses 25-26. Summarize the story of Rahab the prostitute in verse 25. (Joshua 2:1-24 and 6:17-27, Hebrews 11:31). Explain the "job description" God gives us in Colossians 3:23-24. Do Paul's words in Colossians 3:23 and 2 Corinthians 5:10 provide motivation for letting your deeds demonstrate your faith?

5. What are some examples of works that pass through the fires of God's judgment and are rewarded as described in 1 Corinthians 3:10-15?

Some things to think about:

1. Improper motives that get you involved in doing good works.
2. Excuses you have given the Lord for not being more involved in His service.
3. Does your life prove (or lack evidence) that you believe the statement: "Only one life, t'will soon be past, and only what's done for Christ will last."