

James 2: 14-26

Q: What does it mean to have faith?

- Hebrews 11:1 = Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Then in Romans Paul gives us an idea of what Faith in Jesus actually looks like.

Romans 10:9-11 : If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹ As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame."

Q: How does Paul say we can be saved?

Yeah, Paul clearly demonstrates the simple requirement for salvation. Faith in Jesus. Now we have an idea of what faith looks like lets turn to our passage for today.

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Q: How does this passage weigh in on what Paul describes saving as?

Q: Looking at v.14-16, why does James question the ability of faith to save us?

If you found yourself in need and your friend told you how much they cared but did nothing to help you, you would question how much they truly cared. In the same way, James questions whether a type of faith without any action is a true faith.

Q: How does James describe faith without works in ONE word? => DEAD

Q: Looking at v.18, what does it tell us?

Q: How does v.19 demonstrate how you can have a faith worth nothing.

But it is important to understand that James is critiquing a type of faith not faith in general. James uses the phrase 'hé pistis' for "that faith". The word "hé is important because it narrows the scope of what he is talking about. He is referring to the type of faith in v.14 that has no works. He is questioning whether THAT faith is saving

Q: What is James trying to teach us from Abraham and Rahabs example?

Paul in Ephesians explains that we are saved by grace and that we cannot earn our way to heaven. James adds to the picture by explaining that a true faith always leads to works and faith without works is dead.

This is a wake-up call to those who are comfortable in their belief in God but do not have a saving faith.

And to those who are saved it challenges us to ask the question:

Is our faith evident in the way we live our lives?

Anything else to add?

PRAY