

"Show Me Your Faith"

James 2:14-26 (NIV)

Pastor Bob Brandhagen

The Purpose (Why did God write this?): To exhort, reason, warn, and illustrate that faith minus works is unsaving, no good, dead, and useless.

I. A Hypothetical Situation Teaches Us That Faith Minus Works is "Dead" (2:14-17)

Faith without works is not only like a corpse; it is also like salt that lost its taste:

II. A Silent Dialogue Teaches That Faith Minus Works is "Useless" (2:18-20)

Faith minus works is dead and useless; faith plus works are co-workers:

III. A Historical Situation Teaches Us That Faith Plus Works "Work Together" (2:21-24)

Abraham had something to teach about the relation of faith and works; Rahab reinforces the same lesson:

IV. Another Historical Situation Teaches That Faith Minus Works is "Dead" (2:25-26)

The Big Idea (The Sermon-in-a-Sentence): True faith that leads to friendship with God will be accompanied by works.

The Big Story: Like Abraham, you will be "considered righteous" when your faith leads to obedient sacrifice, as part of God's redemptive plan. Like Rahab, you will be "considered righteous" when your faith leads to such hospitality as furthers God's redemptive plan.

The Big Question: Will you pray and strive for a God-pleasing faith/works mix in your life?

The Gospel: Believe, receive, follow Jesus (John 1:12; Matt 4:19); count the cost (Luke 14:28).

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