# *Third Street Church*

# *Midweek Prayer and Bible Study*

# *Wednesday, May 13, 2020- 6pm*

***Introductions/ Welcome/ Opening Prayer: Pastor Reid***

*Key Verse:* **“***For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead*”. 2:26

***The Word:*** *James 2:14-26-English Standard Version (ESV)*

**Faith Without Works Is Dead**

**14**What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? **15**If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, **16**and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? **17**So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

**18**But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. **19**You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! **20**Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? **21**Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? **22**You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; **23**and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. **24**You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. **25**And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? **26**For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

**Reflection**

In this section James discusses deeds as the outward expression or evidence of our faith. James’ point is that living and active faith **in** us will show itself through the way we **live**. Imagine believing in Jesus and claiming to be a Christian but having never changed the way you lived since you were baptized. James is saying, that we are saved as a reward to our works or deeds. He not saying God will save us if do enough good. He says living **and** active faith will be visible and we make a difference in the way we live when we put faith in action. James uses two examples of Abraham and Rahab as those who put their faith in action.

**Sharing/Discuss**

1. Who is speaking in these passage? Who is listening in these passages?

**James 14-19**

**v.19 *”*** *You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!”*

1. What does James 2:19 and the following passages affirm/confirm there is only one God? Or how were people made to believe in One Holy God in these passages?

 ***4****“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one*” (Deut. 6:4)

***24****“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God*. (Mark 1:24)

Also in Luke 4:33-34 who believed? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What do these passages say about demons when confronted by the One Holy God?
2. What is the Good News in the above passages?
3. What scripture do you quote when demons/ devils/Satan try to still your joy or peace?

**James 2: 20-26**

1. What does James say is an unacceptable way to treat someone who is hungry and needing clothing?
2. What makes it unacceptable for a Christian to treat someone that way?
3. The way we act reflects what is on the inside. Someone who treats another person poorly does not understand just how valuable that other person is to God. James says that faith without action or works is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. What did God tell Abraham to do? ( James 2:21&Genesis 22:2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How is this a test of faith? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What does Hebrews 11:18-19 say about Abraham’s faith?
2. The second example of faith in action James points to is Rahab. What did Rahab do that showed she had faith? What if she had thought” I better not get myself involved in this.” What could have happened?

**Further Thought and Meditation**: Think of times you have believed “just in your head” and not in the things you do? How can this study of faith and works in James help you put faith and works together for God’s Glory?

**What Inspires you these days?**

What's giving you inspiration and hope these days? A song, hymn, scripture, special reading? How has it helped inspire you?

﻿**Faith in Action:** Give, share, pray, reach out. As Christians we are *the hands and feet of Christ in the world*. Let you light so shine so that others can see Christ in you!

 **Closing Thoughts for the Group**

**Closing Prayer- Pastor Reid. Let us lift up people/situations in God’s world for prayer:** *Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! That calls me from a world of care, and bids me at my Father’s throne. Make all my wants and wishes known….*

 **Closing Music*: Encourage Yourself in the Lord.. Sung by: Sheri Jones- Moffett***

***https://youtu.be/qAt2L7aeH1I***

*Sometimes you have to encourage yourself. Sometimes you have to speak victory during the test. And no matter how you feel speak the word and you will be healed. Speak over yourself encourage yourself in the Lord.*

**Words of Sending: Pastor Reid**

Thank you for joining our Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer this week! May the Lord be with you all until meet again!

With the Love of Christ,

Pastor Reid