

## **Faith and Works** **James 2:14-26**

Now that you have studied James 2:14-26 and discussed this passage in your class, here is some information that may help expand your understanding.

### ***From Josh Cramer, Pastor, Cole Community Church:***

Faith in Christ - confessing with our mouths that Jesus is Lord and believing that God raised him from the dead - is what saves a person. (Theologically, we gain our "merit" from Christ's atoning work on the cross, which is given as grace to those who believe and submit their lives to Jesus as Lord and Messiah.) (Romans 10:9)

We do nothing to gain our salvation on our own. Even our faith is a gift of God. No works that we do could ever make us worthy of salvation. (No action of ours, without God's grace, could ever gain us enough merit to save us.) (Ephesians 2:8-9)

But, as James says, faith without works is dead. Claiming to be saved while not increasingly living a changed and Spirit-led life may indicate that a person has not submitted his or her life to Christ as Lord. Jesus (good tree produces good fruit—Matthew 7:17-20) and Paul (the Spirit is the guarantee of our salvation—Ephesians 1:13-14, and the fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—Galatians 5:22-23) both argue the same thing - our lives reveal what is in our hearts. If we say we are saved and we are not increasing in love for God and love for our neighbors, then there is little reason to think that we are saved. (Theologically: our justification is shown in our sanctification; or, our justification and sanctification work together.) (Matthew 22:37-39)

### ***From Dr. Richard J. Krejcir:***

Real, impacting, effectual faith will have results. It will be lived out! Faith is received alone, but it does not just stand alone; it is to be shown. Faith will be backed up by the proof that it is present in a person. If there is no proof, there is a good chance that the vessel is empty of faith. If the label says "coke," and when you open it and pour it in a glass, all that comes out is "chicken feathers," you may come to the conclusion that the label and contents do not measure up to each other. The same case is with faith. Faith is given and received by Christ's work of grace alone. James' point is not that salvation requires works, an effort to receive it or even to cement it; rather, real faith will result in an outcome that backs it up. Faith will be lived out in the believer's life, thinking, words, and actions. Faith will create initiative from the realization of who we are in Christ, and then we will live out our lives in Him, through His power and because of our convictions.