

# **James: The Danger of Dead Faith**

*James 2:14-26*

## **Faith without Action (v. 14-17)**

- As a continuation of his instruction about how we are to treat the poor, James asserts the need for real faith to be accompanied by action
- The type of faith that sees someone in need but does nothing to help is not real faith
  - It is dead faith
- The kind of faith that leads to eternal life is not empty words or hollow claims
  - It produces change in us
  - It results in godly action
- Simple mental assertion in the claims of Christianity is not real faith
  - Demons believe there is a God but are not saved from their rebellious ways
- We need to have the kind of real trust in God that leads us to act on our beliefs

## **Two Test Cases (v. 20-26)**

- James gives two examples of OT people who put their trust in God into action:
  - Abraham: When he was willing to sacrifice Isaac because God had told him to (Gen 15:16)
    - Paul uses this same text to point to the need for faith (Rom 4:3; Gal 3:6), leading some to see a contradiction between James & Paul
      - However, their claims are the same: It is real faith that leads to righteousness
    - The author Hebrews uses this same example (Heb 11:17-19)
  - Rahab: Who hid the Israelite spies because of her faith in their God (Josh 2)

## **So What?**

- Is our faith real, leading us to godly actions?
- When we see a need, do we look for ways to meet it?
  - So that we might be the answer to someone else's prayer

**Meditation Verse:** *James 2:26*