



I. Dead Faith (14-17)

Argument #1 - A Brother or Sister in Need

-Can someone's words meet another's physical needs? Of course, the answer is "No"!

-James asks, "what good is that?" and then answers the question

-What does it mean if faith is "dead"?

-Indicates **faith is clearly not in God**



The first question ties in directly with verses 12-13 concerning mercy - i.e. can you show mercy with only words? The second question asks, "can that faith save him?" He then presents three arguments for why **faith without works cannot save anyone...**

James 2:14-26

14 **What good is it**, my brothers, if someone says he has **faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?**

Matt 7:21



15 **If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food,**

A fellow believer

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**. <- If words alone can't clothe and feed someone, they also can't save anyone!

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**.

Deut 6:4 - The LORD our God, the LORD is one

19 You believe that God is one; you do well. **Even the demons believe—and shudder!** <- i.e. from fear

20 Do you want to be shown, you **foolish person**, that **faith** apart from **works** is useless? <- Hypothetical opponent
Heb 11:8-12,17-19

21 Was not **Abraham** our father **justified by works** when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?

Gen 22:1-19

22 You see that **faith** was active along with his **works**, and **faith** was completed by his **works**;

Gen 15:6

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.

Josh 2
Heb 11:31

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**.

James vs. Paul

*What is the difference between the "works" described by James and those by Paul?

-Rom 3:19-4:25; Gal 2:15-3:6

*The teachings of James and Paul on "works" are not in conflict but instead are looking at faith from two different directions. These are perfectly reconciled in:

-Eph 2:8-10

Standard Hebrew farewell...



Argument #2 - Even the Demons Believe

-Hypothetical back & forth with an opponent who believes one can have **faith** without **works**

- James points to The Shema from Deut 6:4 "You believe that God is one"

-To this day, The Shema is considered the essential declaration of faith in Judaism

-James is saying that even making this **essential** proclamation only brings one to the level of the demons.

Did these "works" cause Abraham to earn his salvation? In what way was he justified by "works?"

Abraham

*How does this compare to Rom 4:1-25?

*Paul uses Abraham as an example of one who was justified by his faith and NOT his works

*How do we reconcile this? See above...

Matt 7:21 → "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

II. Demonic Faith (18-19)

Mk 1:23-24;
3:11-12; 5:1-13
Lk 8:26-33

III. Dynamic Faith (20-26)

Argument #3 - Consider Abraham and Rahab

-Points back to examples from Jewish history

-**Abraham** and **Rahab** are mentioned in **Hebrews 11** because of their faith.

-He is pointing out that their faith was lived out by what they did.

-He quotes from **Gen 15:6** in reminding his readers that **Abraham** clearly "**believed God**".

-**Abraham's** belief was backed up with action as exemplified by his willingness to offer up **Isaac** in **Gen 22**.

-He also points out that **Rahab's** faith was born out by what she did in hiding the spies sent to Jericho (**Josh 2**).

"Works" are the outworking of genuine faith in God