

JAMES

November 8, 2020

James 2:14-26

READ

James 1:14-26

QUESTIONS for REFLECTION

1. Rephrase James' opening questions as statements (v. 14). (Express the issue.)

How serious are the implications of these statements?

2. What is the point of James' example in vv. 15-16?
3. What kind of faith is James talking about (v. 17)? What characterizes something in this state or condition (v. 26)?
4. What is the impossibility expressed in v. 18? What is the only possibility expressed?
5. What sort of faith does James identify in v. 19? What characterizes this faith? (What does it have? What does it not have?)

Does anything surprise you about v. 19?

What is the estimate of this faith (v. 20)?

6. How does James describe Abraham's integration of faith & works in v. 22a?

7. Let's look at an example of this in John 3:14-15. The background for these verses is in Numbers 21:4-9. Describe how the phrase— "faith was working with his works"— can be applied, or is relevant, to this incident. How do you, then, apply this in your life?

The Apostle Paul uses a phrase a couple of times in 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 & 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12. What is the phrase? What does this suggest in light of James' "faith was working with his works"?

8. Abraham offered up Isaac (Genesis 22:1-19) about fifty years after he believed God and was reckoned by Him as righteous (Genesis 15:6). What does James say happened, half a century later, as a result of Abraham's faith working with his works (vv. 22b, 23a)? What does that mean?
9. How were Abraham & Rahab "justified by works and not by faith alone"?
10. Summarize in one or two sentences what James concludes about our faith in this passage (c.f., Ephesians 2:10; Matthew 5:16).
11. Is the Apostle Paul (Galatians 2:16) in conflict with James (2:24) on the relationship of faith & works? Can their statements be harmonized? (How are they in agreement?)

PERSONAL RESPONSE

1. I will make my faith useful this week by . . .
2. I will walk in good works this week by . . .
3. I will let my light shine before men this week by . . .