

Wisdom of the Bible ~ Faith and Deeds

Discussion Questions

1. In James 2:14, James speaks of a person having faith without deeds and asks, “Can such faith save him?” Can it?
2. From a worldly perspective, why is it important to have deeds along with faith?
3. What does Jesus say about faith and works? (Matthew 7:26-27)
4. Proper motivation is important in understanding the value of our works. What are we being asked to do and why? (1 John 3:16-18) [Also see Q11.]
5. Give a modern example of the situation described in verses James 2:15-16.
6. Explain the meaning of James 2:18. (How can you show your faith without deeds?)
7. Doesn’t James 2:18 contradict Paul in Romans 3:28 when he writes “man is justified (saved) by faith without the deeds (works) of the law”?
8. What is the point of James 2:19? (Is only believing—or faith—enough?)
9. Chronology (the order of events) is important when it comes to faith and works. Explain it in simple terms. Note the sequence in Ephesians 2:8-10.
10. Is there a similar sequence of events in the stories of Abraham and Rahab as summarized in James 2:21-25?
11. What do you think of Paul’s description of our job and compensation package in 2 Corinthians 5:10, Colossians 3:23-24, and Titus 3:8. Are you motivated?
12. Think about:
 - A. Improper motives that get you involved in doing good works.
 - B. Excuses you have given the Lord for not being more involved in His service.