

One Step to Freedom  
Chapter 3: Trials and Temptations

Lesson 3  
Faith Revealed in Works

*“But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?”*  
(James 2:20).

Read James 2:14-16.

At this point in his letter, James launches into a series of rhetorical questions. What three questions does James ask concerning faith and works?

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2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Read James 2:17. If a person’s faith does not result in works, what can be said about their faith?

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James is seeking to show the practical results of being justified by our faith in Jesus. (For references concerning our positional standing before God, see Romans 3:28.)

Works of obedience and faithfulness to God reflect our position of justification by faith. As we truly believe in Jesus, our new nature will produce good deeds out of the desire of our hearts (2 Corinthians 5:17).

5. Read James 2:18. How does James say he will show his faith?

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6. Can you look at your life and see fruitful works as a result of your faith?

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Read James 2:19. Some might argue that there are two gods, one of faith and one of works—but James says no! There is one God who saves by faith that leads us to fruitful works (Ephesians 2:8-10).

7. Who else believes in one God? Does that cause them to serve Him?
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8. If someone professes to believe in God but rejects Jesus, and does not serve God, is their profession true?

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9. Read James 2:20. What kind of person is one who says he believes but does not change his life?

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Read James 2:21-24 and Genesis 15:1-6 and 22:11-14. Notice that Abraham believed God (15:6) and obeyed God (22:2, 10-12). Abraham's faith was confirmed by his obedience. Notice also that Genesis 22:1 says that God was testing Abraham's faith.

10. How does this story relate to James 1:2-4?

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11. According to James 2:21-24, how was Abraham justified?

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12. How was his faith proved?

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13. As the result of trusting and obeying God, what was Abraham called?

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14. What does the summary of Abraham's example prove to us?

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In James 2:25-26, James uses another Old Testament examples (see Joshua 2 and 6:17).

15. What is the body without the Spirit?

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16. So, what is faith without works?

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God uses James in these passages to teach us that our faith needs to be real. It needs to be powerful enough to change our thinking, our attitude and our actions.

For further reading, read James chapter 3.