

<p>A. INTRODUCTION.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ The Book of James strongly warns Christians against hypocrisy and double-mindedness. ⊕ James emphasizes that it is our behavior (action) that shows really what we believe. 	<p>🌀 Reflection Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What do you believe? ○ Do you hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? (James 2:1 NASB).
<p>B. CONTEXT.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James criticizes his readers' reluctance to show genuine love and care for the poor, highlighting their partiality towards the wealthy and powerful. • Today, James continues to exhort us to obey the word by demonstrating what true faith is— faith that <u>works</u>. 	
<p>C. TEXT'S OUTLINE.</p> <p>1. Dead Faith (2:14-20).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith by itself without works is dead (v.17). • Faith without works is useless (v.20). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is my faith apparent only in words, or is it visible through my actions? ○ Do I respond to needy situations with empty words or by offering practical help? And what is my motivation when doing good works: genuine faith and love, or a sense of obligation?
<p>2. Saving Faith (2:21-26).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith <u>involves</u> works. Faith was <u>completed</u> (<u>matured</u>) by works. Faith was <u>active</u> along with works (v.24). • Any <i>faith</i> that doesn't lead to works is dead (v.26). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In what ways might I tempted to separate faith from obedience, and how can I experience saving faith according to God's leading? ○ Do my works validate my faith before others and reflect a transformed life? What evidence does my life give?
<p>D. THINKING IT THROUGH.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short answer is affirmatively NO. • Paul fought against a false understanding of works, while James was battling against a false understanding of faith. • However, both Paul and James would say we're saved <i>for</i> works. We're saved by faith and that faith will express itself in good works in our lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is James 2:24 contradicting Romans 3:28?

<p>E. CONCLUSION.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Let me end with two central questions.• We know that we're saved by faith, which should result in transformed lives.• The evidence for such faith is godly and compassionate works. <p>⊕ My prayer for everyone is to have the confidence in proclaiming your faith, as James did, "<i>I will show you my faith by my works.</i>"</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Am I sure I am saved?2. Am I sure I have faith?
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