

## Work Your Faith

### Traction- Part 5

James 2:14-26

July 5, 2009

## An Everyday Faith That Saves People, Grows Christians, and Honors God...

### 1. REQUIRES MORE THAN SAYING THE RIGHT THINGS.

*"What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone?" James 2:14*

*"Therefore by their fruits you will know them. Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven." Matthew 7:20-21*

### 2. REQUIRES MORE THAN FEELING THE RIGHT THINGS.

*"Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, 'Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well'—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?" James 2:15-16*

*"But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?" 1 John 3:17*

### 3. REQUIRES MORE THAN BELIEVING THE RIGHT THINGS.

*"You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror." James 2:19*

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:8-10*

- **How Paul and James are different but the same:**

- **Paul was battling legalism among the lost.**

**James was battling laziness among the saved.**

- **Paul was telling sinners how to get from earth to heaven: faith alone.**

**James was telling saints how to get some heaven on earth: works.**

- **Paul focused on the root of salvation: what happens on the inside.**

**James focused on the fruit of salvation: what happens on the outside.**

- **Paul was talking about how to know you are a Christian.**

**James was talking about how to show you are a Christian.**

### 4. REQUIRES ALSO DOING THE RIGHT THINGS.

*"Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: 'Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.' He was even called the friend of God." James 2:21-23*