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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**James 2:14-20**  
**Lesson #11**  
**Private Faith**  
**05/09/2021**

## *James* Kingdom Living in a Broken World

**2:14-20**

**Faith that shows**

This is what we should know	This is what we should do		
<b>Life's trials contain hidden blessings.</b> 1:1-18	"quick to hear" "Listen up" 1:19-2:13	"slow to speak" "Shut up" 2:14-3:18	"slow to anger" "Cool it" 4:1-5:20

**James 1:19**

"But everyone must be **quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger**;

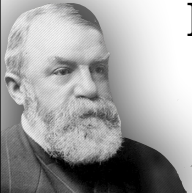
1

"be slow to speak"

**James 2:14**

"What use is it, my brethren, **if a man says** he has faith, **but he has no** works?"

"A holy life will make the deepest impression. Lighthouses blow no horns, they just shine."



Dwight L. Moody

2

Private Faith is  
**1. USELESS.**

**James 2**

"14 What **use** is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? **Can that faith save him?** 15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? 17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is **dead**, being by itself."

3

Private Faith is  
**1. USELESS.**

"What **use** is it"

**James is looking at faith in a temporal practical sense.** *James is not talking about faith in Christ that reconciles us to God, but faith in Christ to help and heal in this life.*

**1 Thessalonians 1:3**

"constantly bearing in mind your **work of faith** and **labor of love** and **steadfastness of hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,"

**Authentic faith, love, and hope should be evident in our response to life's ups and downs.**

4

"if a man **says** he has faith"

**James is building off of (1:19) "be quick to hear and slow to speak".** *Claims alone do not work in the face of temporal needs.*

"but he has no **works?**"

**Think of James' use of "works" as "action".** *This is not to be confused with Paul's use of the word in Rom.4:5.*

**Romans 4:5**

"But to the one **who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly**, his faith is reckoned as righteousness,"

5

"Can *that* faith save him?" James is saying that faith need works to save, **but from what?**

**A common use of the Greek word (SOZO) "save" is with respect to temporal / material not eternal / spiritual matters.**

*Mark 5:34*

"Daughter, your faith has **made you well (saved)**; go in peace and be healed of your affliction."

*1 Timothy 3:15*

"But women shall be **preserved (saved)** through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint."

6

**What does James suggest this faith saves from?"**

"<sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, **what use is that?** <sup>17</sup> Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself."

**The use of the word "saved" in James 5:15 is not "eternal life" but "help in this life."**

*James 5:15*

"and the prayer offered in faith will **restore (save)** the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up,"

7

*1 Corinthians 3*

"<sup>10</sup> . . . I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it. . . . <sup>14</sup> If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If any man's work is **burned up**, he shall **suffer loss**; but he himself **shall be saved**, yet so as through fire."

**Here we have a person whose life is "saved" but his work is lost (not "saved").**

**The Corinthian church was carnal (worldly) and yet retained a saving faith.**

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**Private Faith is  
2. UNSEEN.**

*James 2*

"<sup>18</sup> But someone may well say, "You have faith, and I have works; **show me** your faith without the works, and **I will show you** my faith by my works."

<sup>19</sup> You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. <sup>20</sup> But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works **is useless?**"

9

**Private Faith is  
2. UNSEEN.**

"show me . . . and I will show you"

**James is not addressing: the authentication of faith but the animation of faith.**

*Matthew 5:16*

"Let your light shine **before men** in such a way that they may **see your good works**, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

"is useless?"

**James is looking at faith in a practical sense both seen by man and useful in this life.**

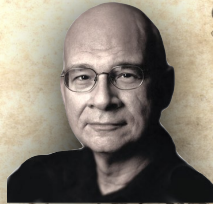
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“When the world sees us doing evangelism, they just see us recruiting. When they see us doing justice, they see God’s glory.”

*Tim Keller*



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“If a picture is worth a thousand words, how much is an example worth?”



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### James’ reform school

- ✓ **Evangelism 101 - listen and show**  
It’s not what we claim but how we listen and show.
- ✓ **Social ethics 101 - sign and sacrifice**  
It’s not social meddling so much as sacrificial modeling.
- ✓ **Spirituality 101 - the Way of the Cross**  
People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.

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### What should we take home from this?

- ✓ **Let your faith be seen**
  - proclaim **THE** faith
  - show **YOUR** faith
- ✓ **Listen wisely**
  - to the Word of God
  - empathetically to people
- ✓ **Live authentically**
  - faith, hope, & love
  - fear not

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### *The Point*

The **Word of the Cross** needs the visual aid of the **Way of the Cross.**



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