A Faith that Works

# Real Faith Produces Works

James 2:14-26

**Overview**

James continues the theme of doing and working versus being hearers only and deceiving ourselves (1:22). A faith that is lacking in external evidence of works is useless and dead. James argues that you can’t separate the two because true faith is proven by its fruit – works.

**Notes**

1. Faith without works is no good (vv 14-17)
   1. Can that faith save?
2. You can’t separate faith and works (vv 18-20)
   1. Logical argument: Show it!
   2. True faith is more than intellectual exercise
3. Faith is completed by works (vv 21-26)
   1. Paul “vs” James
   2. Two examples

**Personal Application**

1. Obedience to God
2. Living in light of who God is

**Reflection Questions**

1. Why is good theology important? And why is it not enough all by itself?
2. Why is “faith without works” so prevalent in the church and culture?
3. What is difficult about applying what we hear in church or at a Bible study to our everyday lives?
4. How can we keep ourselves from the “ditches” of faith without works or a works-based salvation?
5. How does someone who’s grown up in church their whole life – no real change – know if theirs is a genuine faith?

**Prayer:**

1. That our faith would be more than words, theology, or emotion.
2. Conviction for those with a “dead” faith.
3. That we would excel in serving God and others in this season.