

James

It is time to grow up!

Lesson 11

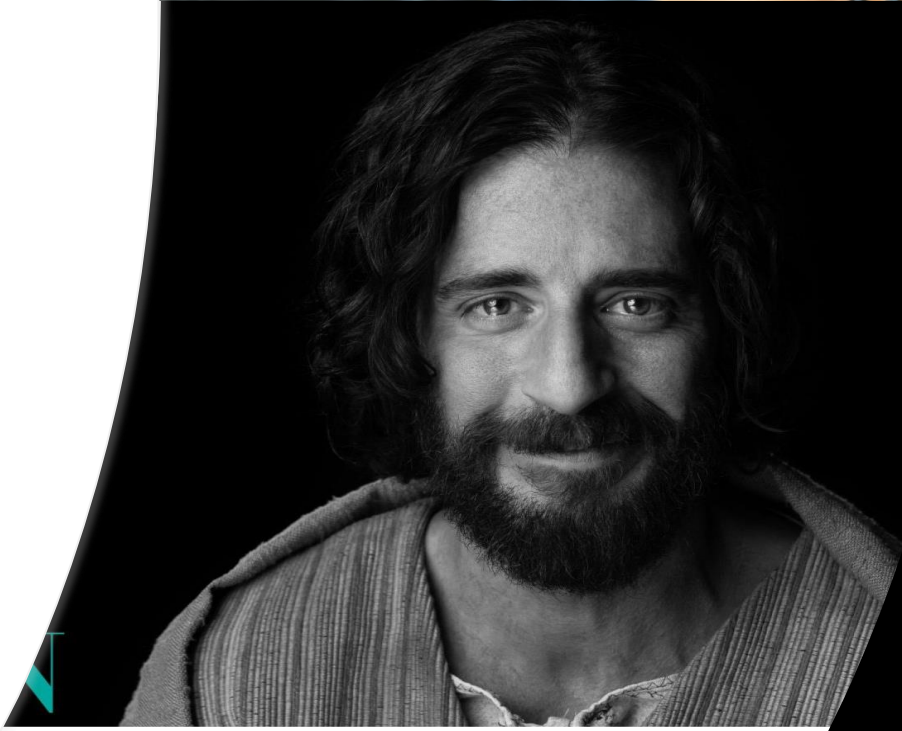
Faith or Deeds Part 3

James 2:18-20

Dead!



Yeshua and Yakov



James 2:17

So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

- **The prominent definition used by the Jews in the time of James was only “Intellectual belief,” It is the definition that James was using. The problem with such faith is that Christians make decisions and live daily with the conscious commitment that Jesus is their Lord and they want to do His will. Whether it is intellectual faith or a commitment to God to do His will, NEITHER by themselves is enough. Either results in death.**
- **James is responding to a tough question. “If I believe, If I have faith in the saving power of Jesus, why is it not enough? Belief is a mind thing, you can’t see it, you can’t feel it, it is just there.**



James 2:18 NASB

HYPOTHETICAL

18 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.”

My paraphrase:

Fred comes up to George in church and strikes up a conversation about faith and works. Fred states, “I have heard you say George, that you have faith. I want to tell you that I have works; I need you George to understand my position. Could you George show me your personalized and self professed faith and do not quote any action, deed, or work, if you can. I will respond by demonstrating my own faith by all the works I have done, they are the evidence of my faith. YOU START!”

SHOW, EXAMPLE, DEMONSTRATE, EVIDENCE

James 2:19 NASB

HYPOTHETICAL

19 You believe that God is one. **You** do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

My paraphrase:

I sense you are having difficulty giving me evidence of your faith George. Let me help you. George your belief system includes the first idea in the ten commandments: that God is one. George that is a good thing, it is first step toward peace with God. But George it is not enough. The Devil and his demons also have this belief, and they have evidence, proof, demonstrations of that belief because they shudder and shake, as if they were living in constant fear.

James 2:20 NASB

HYPOTHETICAL

20 But are **you** willing to acknowledge, **you** foolish person, that faith without works is useless?

My Paraphrase:

Fred asks the big question aimed at his brother in faith George. “George are you now willing, do you right now make the conscious, purposeful decision to agree and acknowledge with the idea that all your faith, all your belief doesn't amount to anything without evidence, OR do you simply want to continue in your unwittingly foolish stand of faith without works is acceptable?”

James 2:17

**So faith,
by itself,
if it has no works,
is dead.**

Faith

is not hoping

God can

it is knowing

He **Will**



Discussion

A persons beliefs can change, can be held hypocritically and can become nothing more that a mirage in the dessert.

Beliefs require effort and overtime show the real character and the kind of faith you have. Alive or Dead.

Consistently wrong choices can and do most often indicate a wrong intellectual belief or misplaced trust.

Just saying you are a Christian does not mean you are one.

**How has someone
else's deeds from
faith make a lasting
difference in your life.**