



Dead Faith

James 2:14-17

1) Dead faith substitutes words for deeds: v.14

John Calvin wrote, “It is faith alone that justifies, but faith that justifies can never be alone.”

True saving faith can never be by itself: It always brings spiritual life, and life that produces good works.

James stated that “faith without works is dead.”

2) Dead faith is intellectual faith: v.15-18

“Why do you call Me Lord, and do not do what I say?”

Read Matt. 7:21-23

John assures us that; “the one who says, I have come to know Him, and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him; the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked. Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard. On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shinning. The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes. (1 John 2:4-11)

3) Dead faith is of demonic influence: v.19-20

4) Living Faith: v.21-26

Two examples: Abraham and Rahab

- Genuine, transforming faith not only should but will produce genuine spiritual good works, notably repentance and obedient submission to Christ's lordship. This is the expression of the new nature, created in the new birth.
- Where there is true salvation, where sovereign grace reaches down to regenerate and transform a person from sinner to saint, God will create in the soul of that person new longings to forsake sin and self and gladly serve the Lord and obey His divine standards of righteousness.
- Salvation does not produce immediate perfection, but a new direction. The new disposition that hates sin, loves the Lord, and seeks to know Him and obey His will begins to manifest itself in behavior.

Questions:

1) Has there been a time when I honestly realized I am a sinner and admitted my need for a Savior?

2) Has there ever been a time that my heart was stirred and broken because of my sin and I surrendered my sins to Christ.

3) Have I sincerely repented of my sins and turned from them? Or do I secretly love sin and enjoy it?

4) Have I trusted Christ and Christ alone for my salvation? Do I enjoy a living relationship with Him through the Word and His Spirit?

5) Has there been a change in my life? Do I desire good works, or am I just going through the motions?

6) Can others tell that I have been with Jesus?

7) Do I desire to share Christ with others? Or am I ashamed of Him?