



**Life Together:  
Living For God through One  
Another  
James 1:17-18**

“Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven.”

—The Apostle James, the half-brother of Jesus

Faith is a key doctrine in the Christian life. The sinner is saved by faith (Eph. 2:8-9), and the believer walks by faith (2 Cor. 5:7). Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6); and whatever we do apart from faith is sin (Rom. 14:23).

Someone has said that faith is not “believing in spite of evidence, but obeying in spite of consequence.” When you read Hebrews 11, you meet men and women who acted on God’s Word, no matter what price they had to pay. Faith is not some kind of nebulous feeling that we work up; faith is confidence that God’s Word is true, and conviction that acting on that Word will bring His blessing.

In this section of scripture (James 2:14-26), James discusses the relationship between faith and works. This is an important discussion, for if we are wrong in this matter, we jeopardize our eternal salvation. What kind of faith really saves a person? Is it necessary to perform good works in order to be saved? How can a person tell whether or not he or she is exercising true saving faith? James answers these questions by explaining to us that there are three kinds of faith, only one of which is true saving faith.

**James 2:14-26**

- **Dead Faith (14-17)**
- **Demonic Faith (18-19)**
- **Dynamic Faith (20-26)**

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