

# **What Is Faith?**

**1-16-22**

James 2:14 (ESV)

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

**All the topics we have looked at over the last several weeks concerning prayer, ask anything, ask for wisdom, have joy in trials are all centered around faith. Since faith is foundational to all these promises, we need to understand “What is Faith”. Do you think means try harder, work up a strong belief, spend hours in prayer, fast and deprive yourself of things, etc. etc. etc.? None of these represent faith! What do you think is? The most succinct explanation is Hebrews 11:8.**

Heb.11:8 (NASB)

By faith Abraham, when he was called (heard), obeyed (acted).

**Faith is when called, we obey. More generally, Faith is when we hear God, we act. Hear and don't act is disobedience. Don't hear and act is presumption.**

**Our Salvation is by faith. We hear and we trust. It is a gift of God. We do nothing but totally trust which is our action.**

Ephesians 2:8–9 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**After Salvation, we continue to have faith (hear and obey) doing the good works God has prepared for us.**

Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, **which God prepared beforehand**, that we should walk in them.

**James now explains what hearing and obeying looks like**

James 2:14–17(ESV) **No O/H**

<sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him (**Just hearing and no trust and action**)?

<sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? <sup>17</sup> So also faith by itself (**Just hearing**), if it does not have works, is dead. (**Hearing with no action is dead.**)

**“Faith ... not accompanied by action is dead.” True faith is hearing and acting on what we heard. *Regeneration affects behavior. Therefore, if no deeds are forthcoming, it is proof that our professed faith is dead.***

**But you say, “I believe!” Mere profession of faith proves nothing; only action can demonstrate faith’s genuineness.**

James 2:19(ESV)

You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

**The demons believe with thorough conviction.**

However, the demon's orthodox knowledge of God simply makes them tremble, for they are terrified at the thought of God. The demons have belief, but it does not lead them to obedience. **Likewise, believers who can only claim an orthodox confession of faith are doing no better than Satan.** Believing faith is hearing, and "obeying" expressing itself outwardly in a changed life.

**In opposition to the demon's faith, we have the evidence of Abraham's faith.** Abraham is the primary example of faith throughout Scripture which is here stated in following three verses. Although Abraham experienced different circumstances, the basic principle by which he lived was always consistent, "By faith when he heard, he acted."

Like Abraham, we are saved by Grace and not of ourselves. It is a gift of God. However, our regeneration or inner change through Christ, produces fruit or obedience.

James 2:24 (ESV)

You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith **(hearing) alone**.

Hearing alone is not faith. **James shows us that deeds are an outworking of genuine faith.** The Apostle Paul said the same thing in a slightly different way. Paul insisted that salvation is not by works but by faith alone. However, Paul also said, "We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works." ***Both Paul and James declare good deeds are the product of genuine faith.***

**God gives us life through Jesus. Therefore, our goal is to hear God and obey. Through obedience, there is evidence of life.**

James 2:26 (ESV)

For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

**The body without the spirit is nothing but a corpse. Faith without “deeds” is as dead as a corpse, and equally useless.**

**The Bible is full of statements about faith. Therefore, we need to know “What is Faith”. Faith is hearing God and obeying. HOW DO WE HEAR GOD? WE HEAR THROUGH THE BIBLE AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. HOW DO WE KNOW WHEN WE HEAR?**

Luke 24:32 (ESV)

“Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”

**Are we living in faith? We need to examine ourselves.**

2 Corinthians 13:5 (ESV)

**Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!**

**Don't you know that Jesus is in you? -- unless you fail the test!**

**The test is simple! We are in the faith when we hear God and act on what HE says. Hear and don't act is disobedience.**

**Don't hear and act is presumption. #1 Salvation #2 Daily Walk**