

Bible Summary

James 2:14-26

Get to work

We are a grace soaked church culture today and that is a good thing. However, James 2 confronts grace with an in-your-face question - can that save you? If you have no works, no change, no fruit, just orthodox doctrine you're simply a good demon. So James would say, "Get to work!" The big question is how does James 2 fit into salvation through faith by grace?

Scriptures— James 2:14-16; Genesis 3:8-10; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:28, 12:1-2; Matthew 7:21-23, 25:34-46; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Titus 2:12

Bible Questions & Application

(These are meant to aid in facilitating conversation.

There is no obligation to run through **every** listed question.)

1. What God did you grow up with? (a loving God, an angry God, disciplinarian, a genie, etc.)
 - a. How has your understanding of God changed over time?
2. Why do you think we're drawn toward religion vs. grace?
3. Sometimes we are tempted to respond to real need with well intended Christianeze but no action. When Matt talked about this (solitary faith), did God bring to mind anyone in your life who might have tangible needs?
4. What happens when we mistake our knowledge of God for faith?
5. Share an instance in your own life when God just asked you to trust Him and you responded in faith.
6. In our understanding of justification and sanctification, does order matter? Why or why not? (Justification=accepted by God into His family, sanctification = behaving like God)
7. "Faith alone saves you, but saving faith will never be alone." (John Calvin) How does this help us understand the relationships between faith, works, and salvation?
 - a. How does grace motivate change and train us in faith and works?

"Getting to know you" Questions

1. Since we last met, what are a couple things you're particularly thankful for? (Philippians 4:8)
2. Have you seen any victories?
3. What is a challenge you are facing right now?
4. What is one thing you are looking forward to?