

HANDOUT FOR LESSON FIVE – JAMES & JUDE
JAMES 2:14-26

In this section James discusses the relationship between faith and works. This is an important discussion (as are they all) because if we are wrong in this matter we jeopardize our eternal salvation. The significance for our day arises from the fact that there is much misunderstanding of this subject in the religious world today. James addresses this issue by explaining three kinds of faith.

1. Dead faith (vv. 14-17).
 - a. People with dead faith substitute words for deeds.

 - b. James illustrates dead faith by postulating a poor believer who came into the assembly in need of proper clothing and food.

 - c. Food and clothing are basic needs of life.

 - d. James tells us that that kind of faith cannot save (v. 14).

2. Demonic faith (vv. 18-19).
 - a. Demons have faith.

 - b. Demonic faith is not a saving faith.

 - c. How could a person show faith without works?

3. Dynamic faith (vv. 20-26).
 - a. Dynamic faith is based on the word of God.

 - b. Faith is only as good as its object.

- c. Dynamic faith involves the whole man.
 - d. Dynamic faith lead to action.
 - e. Abraham and Rahab illustrate dynamic faith.
4. Do James and Paul contradict each other in Rom. 3:28 and James 2:24?
- a. Do Paul and James mean the same thing by “justification,” “faith,” and “works”?
 - b. Does Paul’s use of the terms teach that baptism is not essential to salvation, *i.e.*, does baptism fall within Paul’s understanding of faith?
 - c. Does James teach that one can be saved apart from faith, *i.e.*, does James know of a saving faith that is not an obedient faith?
 - d. Are both James’ and Paul’s understanding of the relationship between faith and works (of obedience to God’s commands) consistent with the teaching of all of God’s word?