

A Working Faith

James 2:14-26

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?

15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food.

16 If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?

17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

20 You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?

21 Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?

22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.

23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.

24 You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?

26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

It's impossible to be "Faith-ful" without a faith that works!

Lk. 22:31-32

31. "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat.

32. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

Col. 1:22:23

22. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation--
 23. if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Col.2:5-7

5. For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

6. So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him,

7. rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

1 Tim. 1:5 - I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

1 Tim. 1:18-19

18. Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight,

19. holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith.

1 Timothy 4:1 - The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

1 Timothy 6:9-10

9. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.

10. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1 Timothy 6:20-21

20. Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge,
21. which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith.

Rom. 12:3 - For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

Luke 18:1- 8

1. Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.
2. He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men.
3. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'
4. "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men,
5. yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!'"
6. And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says.
7. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?
8. I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, WILL HE FIND FAITH ON THE EARTH?"

What will He find in your life?

Mt. 25:21 - "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

When your faith in God is cultivated and grown...

Then all the other things will naturally grow as well!

Mt. 6:33 - But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Luke 17:1-2

1. Jesus said to his disciples: "Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come.
2. It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin.

Luke 17:3-4

3. So watch yourselves. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.
4. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him."

Vs 3 says "sins", vs. 4 says, "sins against you"

Luke 17:5 - The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

Luke 17:6 - He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.

Notice that it didn't say "you can pray for the tree to be uprooted",

It said, "you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you."

"Mulberry tree" – not the same as we have here - Lit. "Sycamine tree" variant of "Sycamore" known for huge deep roots.

The Sycamine tree represents...

1. Deep-rooted obstacles – The sycamine's extensive root network pictures entrenched problems or sins that appear impossible to dislodge.
2. Public familiarity – Listeners in Galilee immediately recognized the tree's stubborn character, making the illustration vivid and credible.
3. Contrast with mustard – A tiny mustard seed embodies small faith; the massive, immovable sycamine embodies great difficulty. The Lord pairs the least with the greatest to exalt the power of genuine faith.

Uprooting the sycamine points to removing deep-seated bitterness:

- Bitterness or Unforgiveness, like sycamine roots, thrives in almost any soil and is hard to eradicate.

(Bitterness or Unforgiveness quickly gains big, deep roots)

- Only faith that relies on God's power—not self-effort—can cast such resentment "into the sea," a figure for complete removal (Micah 7:19).
- The promise is not exaggerated, but a call to trust the Lord for victories that appear humanly impossible.
- Obstacles that seem permanent are subject to the authority of Christ when addressed in faith filled prayer.
- Faith, however small in quantity, draws on the unlimited power of God.
- Genuine forgiveness, empowered by faith, is a tangible miracle that testifies to the gospel's reality before a watching world.

Luke 17:7-10

7. "Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'?

8. Would he not rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'?

9. Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do?

10. So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"

A lot of people think that they've done such a great thing for God because they "went to church" or "paid their tithe"...

But if they have unforgiveness or bitterness, they haven't even done the bare minimum!

Luke 17:11-18

11. Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee.

12. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance

13. and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

14. When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. (kath-ar-id'-zo- purge, cleaned up-not the same as healed)

15. One of them, when he saw he was healed (ee-ah'-om-ahee - cured), came back, praising God in a loud voice.

That's why we like to shout around here!

I sure didn't see Jesus getting offended about it!

16. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him--and he was a Samaritan.

17. Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed (kath-ar-id'-zo - purge, cleaned up)? Where are the other nine?"

18. Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"

We're not told that all ten were "cured" only cleansed,

except the one DEMONSTRATED HIS FAITH when he came back to give "thanks" and "praise"!

Luke 17:19 - Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well (KJV "whole"- lit- so-tay'-ree-on - "salvation- spirit, soul and body")."

Too many of us in the church are so busy being "Needy lepers" that we are not walking in and using the "Apostolic, Word of life giving, authority" to SPEAK to things that need to be uprooted and planted in the sea!

"When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"