

The Third Test: Your Willingness to DO God's Work James 2:14-26

James 2:17 (NLT ¹⁷) . . . *faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.*

It is faith alone that justifies, but faith that justifies is never alone.

Fake Faith

1. A Fake Faith can produce good works

Matthew 7:21-23 (ESV) ²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

**A person may have deeds and not have true faith, but a person will never have true faith without deeds.

2. Fake Faith can have knowledge of God

James 2:19-20 (NLT) ¹⁹ *You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.* ²⁰ *How foolish!*

**There is not a demon in the universe who is an atheist – they are all thoroughly Monotheists and Trinitarian.

3. Fake Faith wants to just get by, or just get into Heaven - but gets neither

James 2:17 (NLT) ¹⁷ *So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.*

4. Fake Faith seeks comfort not conversion

James 2:18 (NLT) ¹⁸ *Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds."*

5. Fake Faith makes much of self and little of God

2 Corinthians 11:26 (NLT) ²⁶ *... I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from **men who claim to be believers but are not.***

Authentic Faith

1. Authentic Faith is a both/and - never an - either/or

James 2:21-22 (NLT) ²¹ *Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?* ²² *You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete.*

2. Authentic Faith flows from the heart to the world

James 2:15-16 (NLT) ¹⁵ *Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing,* ¹⁶ *and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?*

3. Authentic Faith welcomes examination

2 Corinthians 13:5 (NLT) ⁵ *Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith.*

4. Authentic Faith puts the spotlight on God

Matthew 5:16 (MSG) ¹⁶ *Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.*

5. Authentic Faith makes an impact - now and forever

James 2:21-26 (NLT) ²¹ *Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? . . .* ²⁴ *So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone.* ²⁵ *Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road.* ²⁶ *Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.*