

## **APOLOGETICS OF THE FAITH**

In our lesson text, James gives the second of two Apologetics of The Faith, (Jas.2:14-17) and (Jas.2:18-26), using the phrase, “If anyone says.”

- (James 2:14) What good is it, my brothers and sisters, **if someone claims** to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?
- (James 2:16) **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?
- (James 2:18) **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.

James was addressing a problem within the early Christian church in Jerusalem. A controversy had arisen between Old Covenant “law-works” and New Covenant “faith-grace” as the sources of salvation and spirituality.

**This lesson will address four aspects of James’ second Apologetics of The Faith.**

**NOTE:** The Book of James was written prior to the Jerusalem Conference (45-49AD).

### **1. James is not contrasting faith and works. He is contrasting the difference between a Living Faith and a Dead Faith.**

James opens and closes his **Apologetics of the Faith** argument with this doctrinal principle (Jas.2:17 and Jas.2:26).

- **Living Faith** (Jas.2:17) “In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”
- **Dead Faith** (Jas.2:26) “As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.”

### **2. Understanding the following doctrinal formula of a Living Faith is very important to its application to the Christian Way of Life.**

There are **three parts** to doctrinal formula to Living Faith.

- **Living Faith must have a trustworthy working object**
  - (Heb.11:1) Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.
- **The trustworthy working object must be the Word of God**
  - (Rom.10:17) Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.
- The Word of God is always the trustworthy working object because it is based **on the character of God and not on** the character of the believer.
  - (Rom.4:21) being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.
  - (Matt.4:4) Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

3. **Therefore, the difference between a Living Faith and a Dead Faith is the trustworthiness of the Working Object.**

Dead faith does not have a trustworthy living object. Dead faith results from primary or secondary negative volition.

**FAITH CYCLE**

**Hearing** (Rom.10:17)

**Word faith side**

**Completing** (James 2:22)

**Believing** (Heb.4:2)

**Work grace side**

**Applying** (2 Cor.5:7)

- Peter became an example of **primary** negative volition. that resulted in dead faith (inoperative faith cycle) in (Matt.16:21-23) and (Luke 22:31-34).
- The spies sent to explore the Promised Land became an example of **secondary negative** volition (Num.17-20, 33; 13:30).
- Caleb became an example of **secondary positive** volition completing the Faith cycle (Josh.14:6-15)
  - Read (Josh.14:10-12) and (Rom.4:21). “And I will show you my faith by my works.” (Jas.2:18b)

4. **In (James 2:18-26), he gives another example from the sphere of the Angelic Conflict (Jms.2:19-20).**

He showed a dead faith within monotheism Judaism belief in One God. He contrasted them to the demonic world.

(Jas.2:19-20) “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that - and shudder. You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?” (Ps.14:1)

The Demonic world believes in One God - without any personal benefit in time or eternity. Because during their period in eternity past, they rejected the central message of the Plan of God which was the gospel of Christ (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9) (Matt.25:41; Rev.20:10-15; 2 Thess.1:8-9).

Read (Lk.4:31-37; Isa.14:12-15; Ezek.28:11-19; Rev.12:1-9; Heb.2:1-4; and Eph.1:4).

**Question:** Do you know why a spiritually advancing believer does not tremble in fear and conviction when he or she hears the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? (John 16:7-11; 1 Thess.1:5-10; Rom.14:17).