

ACTION

It's easy to say we have faith, but true faith is seen

James 2:18 (nlt) Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds.

How is our faith evident?

What substance is there to our faith?

1. OUR FAITH MUST BE EVIDENT

2 Corinthians 13:5a (nlt) 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.

To say that we believe in God is not sufficient.

Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror!

James 2:19-20 (nlt) 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. How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless?

Galatians 5:6 (nlt) For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What is important is faith expressing itself in love.

How is our faith expressed in love?

2. OUR FAITH AND OUR ACTIONS MUST WORK TOGETHER

Ephesians 2:8-10 (gnt) For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it. God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus he has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do.

True faith is identified through our actions, commitment and dedication to Christ and then to others.

James 2:14-18 (nlt) What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, 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? So you see, faith by itself isn't enough.

Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. Now someone may argue, “Some people have faith; others have good deeds.” But I say, “How can you show me your faith if you don’t have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds.”

Our words can be empty. Just saying that we care means little if our words don’t turn into acts of kindness.

3. EXAMPLES OF FAITH IN ACTION

Abraham

James 2:21-26 (nlt) 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? You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.” He was even called the friend of God. So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone.

Rahab

(James 2:21-26 con’t)

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. Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.

PAUL

1 Corinthians 15:10 (nlt) But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me - and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace.

JESUS

Hebrews 10:10 (gw) We have been set apart as holy because Jesus Christ did what God wanted him to do by sacrificing his body once and for all.

Are we like Jesus?

John 4:34 (amp) Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to completely finish His work."

As Christians, is our faith alive and active through our actions?

Ephesians 2:10 (msg) He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.