



# Just Grow Up!

James - A Manual for Maturity

## **Making My Faith Visible**

**June 10 & 11, 2023**

### **James 2:14-26 (NIV)**

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 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? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. 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. 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? Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 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. You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone. 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? As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

### **What is Saving Faith?**

- **A faith based on God’s promise**

### **Genesis 15:6 (NIV)**

Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

- **A faith based on God’s Son**

### **Galatians 3:6-8 (NLT)**

In the same way, “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.” The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God. What’s more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would make the Gentiles right in his sight because of their faith. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, “All nations will be blessed through you.”

- **A faith based on God's sacrifice**

**Galatians 3:9-14 (NLT)**

So, all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith. But those who depend on the law to make them right with God are under his curse, for the Scriptures say, "Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the commands that are written in God's Book of the Law." So, it is clear that no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law. For the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life." This way of faith is very different from the way of law, which says, "It is through obeying the law that a person has life." But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham, so that we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith.

- **A faith based on God's gift of grace**

**Romans 4:1-5 (NLT)**

Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way. For the Scriptures tell us, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.

**Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)**

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

- **A faith based solely in Jesus' death on the cross**

**James 2:21-24 (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.

**John 14:6 (NLT)**

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

## How to Make My Faith Visible:

### 1

#### Authentically love everyone.

##### **James 2:14-16** (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?

#### The Church must actively love:

- **The poor**

##### **Proverbs 19:17** (TPT)

Every time you give to the poor you make a loan to the Lord. Don't worry—you'll be repaid in full for all the good you've done.

- **The sick and afflicted**

##### **Matthew 25:36b** (TPT)

...when I was sick you tenderly cared for me...

- **Widows and orphans**

##### **James 1:27** (NIV)

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

- **Foreigners and immigrants**

##### **Deuteronomy 10:19** (NLT)

So you, too, must show love to foreigners, for you yourselves were once foreigners in the land of Egypt.

- **Prisoners**

##### **Matthew 25:36d** (MSG)

...I was in prison and you came to me...

### 2

#### Clearly demonstrate a difference in the way I live from the way the world lives.

##### **James 2:17-20** (NLT)

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." 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?

### **1 John 2:15-17 (TPT)**

Don't set the affections of your heart on this world or in loving the things of the world. The love of the Father and the love of the world are incompatible. For all that the world can offer us—the gratification of our flesh, the allurements of the things of the world, and the obsession with status and importance—none of these things come from the Father but from the world. This world and its desires are in the process of passing away, but those who love to do the will of God live forever.

## **3**

**Willingly offer everything I have and everyone I love to God.**

### **James 2:20-22 (TPT)**

O feeble sons of Adam, do you need further evidence that faith divorced from good works is phony? Wasn't our ancestor Abraham found righteous before God because of his works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? Can't you see how his action cooperated with his faith and by his action faith found its full expression?

### **Hebrews 13:16 (TPT)**

We will show mercy to the poor and not miss an opportunity to do acts of kindness for others, for these are the true sacrifices that delight God's heart.

### **Romans 5:8 (NIV)**

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

## **Memory Verse**

### **James 2:22 (NLT)**

You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete.



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