



FAITH IN ACTION Series

James 1:19-27 - Faith is a Verb!

James 1:19-21

- Last week, from 1:16-18 – By God’s gift, we are made new as a kind of first-fruits. Therefore, let us remain “steadfast under trial” (vs 12).
- Now he says, “be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.”
- Put away “all filthiness and rampant wickedness.” (vs 21).

James 1:22-25

What is a Disciple?

One who lives his life hearing, believing and obeying all of Jesus' words for all his life.

4 stages of becoming a true disciple:

1. An intellectual reception.
2. An emotional response.
3. A volitional decision.
4. A practical outcome - we obey and we do.

- Talks about looking into the mirror and forgetting it immediately (vs 23-24).
- If we look into God’s word – the mirror of God’s perfect law that bring true freedom, and continues or ‘perseveres’

Does James contradict Paul on Faith and Works?

- PAUL - "For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law." (Romans 3:28).
- JAMES - "You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone." (James 2:24).
- Both of them used the example of Abraham to prove their point (Romans 4:1-15, James 2:21-23).
- NO! Just a difference in emphasis, not in core belief.
- Paul was opposed to Jewish legalists who claimed salvation was a matter of works – i.e. what you did.
- James was opposed to Jewish aristocrats who claimed salvation was only a matter of faith – i.e. what you professed.

"To the legalists Paul argues that we are justified not by our own good works but through faith in Christ. To the aristocrats James argues that we are justified not by a barren orthodoxy (which even the demons possess—"and shudder," 2:19), but by works, especially care for the needy."

John Stott, *Basic Introduction to the New Testament*, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 2017, page 75

- Paul does also teach that our faith in Christ will result inevitably in good works (Ephesians 2:8–10; Galatians 5:6).
- Similarly, James affirms that our good works spring naturally from true faith (James 2:15), and if we are all talk and no action, we don't have true faith (James 2:17).
- Neither dead faith (James 2:17) nor dead works (Hebrews 6:1, 9:14) are of any use, but a true faith will result in "love and good deeds" as Hebrews 10:24 tells us.

We are saved not *by* good works, but *for* good works.

James 1:26-27

- 3-fold duty towards self, neighbour and God.
- We must control our tongue - that's self-control (vs 26).
- We must care for orphans and widows (vs 27a).
- And finally, keep from being polluted by the world, in love and worship due alone to God (vs 27b).

Application

- 1) Let your Faith show in the way you live – be a disciple.
- 2) Let your Faith be shared with someone else – make another disciple.