



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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A Dynamic Duo!

Focus Verse: James 2:14 – What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?

Lesson Text: Genesis 22:1-14; James 2:14-26

Truth About God: God calls us to put our faith into action.

Truth For My Life: I will demonstrate my faith through my works.

The dynamic duo of faith and works. We understand that good works alone cannot earn us entrance into that beautiful gate cut from a single pearl. We can never be good enough to purchase our own salvation because, even on our best day, the Bible declares all our righteousness as nothing more than *“filthy rags”* (Isaiah 64:6). It is impossible to do enough good deeds to erase the stain of one single sin. We must apply the gospel to our lives through the new-born experience because neither good works nor good intentions are enough to save us.

Faith combined with works releases the power of God. Faith and works are both involved in all elements of obeying the gospel of God. We must do more than have a change of mind about our sinful state; we must repent of our sins by turning from our old life. It is not enough to feel sorry for past mistakes; we must quit sinning. Repentance is how we obey the death of Jesus. We must have faith to believe that His death on the cross of Calvary was sufficient to pay our debt to sin, and we must do the work of turning from sin. After we have repented of our sin, we respond to Jesus' burial by being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. **Our new birth is not complete without Spirit baptism.**

Just as faith apart from obedience will not result in salvation, our walk with God after the new birth is equally dependent upon the marriage of faith and works. If Jesus had only declared His identity with words, the statements He made would have been true, but the opportunity to prove their accuracy may have been lost. The Bible declares: *“Jesus . . . went about doing good”* (Acts 10:38).

When John the Baptist sent messengers asking whether Jesus really was the Messiah, Jesus offered the works He had done as evidence: *“Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached”* (Luke 7:22).

James asked these rhetorical questions: *“What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?”* (James 2:14). James then gave a very practical example to illustrate his point. If we encounter a brother or sister needing clothing and food and say, *“Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled”* without offering practical help, it is of no use (James 2:16). In summary, the Word of God declares in clear terms: *“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone”* (James 2:17).

In the Book of Genesis in chapter twelve where we are introduced to a man named Abram and his wife Sarai. The next fourteen chapters are devoted exclusively to that one man and his family. God challenged Abraham's faith and he proved to be faithful. And it required more than one action. Abraham left his hometown, separated from his entire family, and received the promised son named Isaac. Then the Lord challenged Abraham's faith yet again with a call that must have been incredibly difficult to hear: *“Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of”* (Luke 22:2). Abraham loved Isaac, but he loved God more. Abraham passed the test by his willingness to sacrifice his son unto the one who gave him his son. That is certainly faith with works.

In each of our lives, we must make the decision to allow the Word of God—not our opinion of ourselves or the trends of society—to be the mirror whereby we evaluate our actions and motives to ensure we are not guilty of the description Jesus gave in Luke 9:62: *“No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”* A proper combination of faith and works will ensure we endure to the end and obtain salvation.