

Pastor Joby Martin

JAMES

Faith Works



The Main Idea

When you have been run over by the grace train of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, it changes everything about you, especially the way you live your life.

Works are the fruit of the changed life; the Gospel is the root.

James 2 (ESV)

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works."

James 2 (ESV)

Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! 20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;

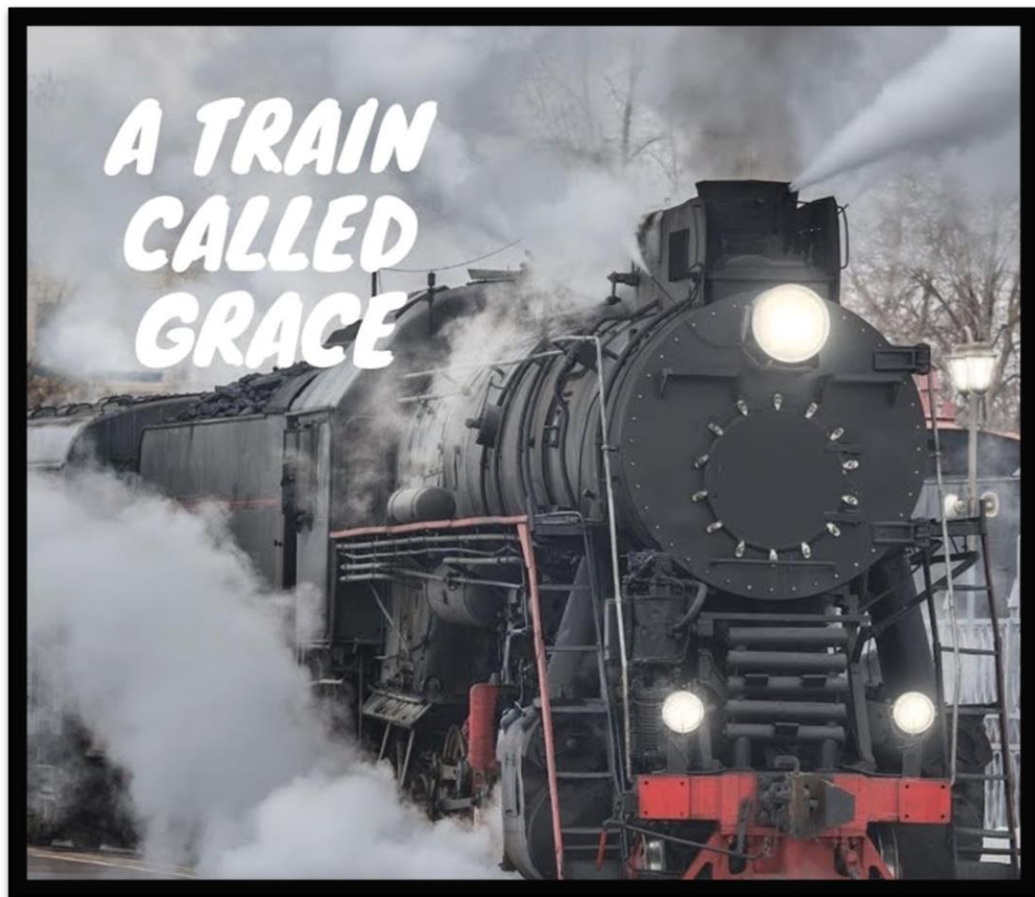
James 2 (ESV)

23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness” - and he was called a friend of God. 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. 25 And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? 26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

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Saved by Grace Through Faith

- God owes us nothing
- Grace is
 - Not anti-effort (honors God)
 - Anti-earning (offends God)
- Religion/Works do not save us
- No one is good enough/righteous
- Faith in Jesus saves us – Gospel gift from God

Saved by Grace Through Faith

- Banker example – forgave \$1 Trillion debt & gave unlimited cash card
- True faith transforms the believer –Run over by the grace train
- Faith changes our relationship with Jesus (friends) & our lifestyle
- The evidence/fruit is unmistakable
- Eleven Apostles/Judas
- Jesus cursed the fruitless tree



Real
Faith
Works

Real Faith Works

- Fake/dead faith - Lip service
- Real faith
 - Hand over the reigns of our life to Jesus
 - Lifestyle of faith-driven works
 - Law of love (heart of God) - Use what we have to meet people's needs
- Abraham (Mount Moriah) & Rahab (Jericho) put their faith into action

Real Faith Works

- Salvation is a process
 - Justification
 - Progressive sanctification
 - Glorification

Questions

- How do you know if you have real faith and where have you seen the biggest change in your life since you met Jesus?
- What does it mean to know Jesus as Lord and Savior?
- What would a good friend or family member say is a sign of God's Lordship in your daily life?

Questions

- In what area of your life (work, relationships, etc.) is it most difficult for you to surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and to put your faith into action (good works)?
- What makes this difficult for you?
- How can the same activity please or anger God depending on the motivations?

Questions

- What work is God asking you to step into right now? Is it forgiveness, generosity, sharing your faith, repentance, or something else?
- What next steps of obedience are you taking in that direction?



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