

HOW TO DEVELOP FAITH

Have Real Faith

July 12, 2009

FBC Port A

James 2:14-26

James 2:17 NIV *In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

HOW TO HAVE REAL FAITH

I. WHO IS RIGHT - JAMES OR PAUL?

	<u>Paul (Gal 2:16)</u>	&	<u>James (Ja. 2:24)</u>
Problem:	"Legalism"		"Laxity"
"WORKS"	Jewish laws		Christian lifestyle
Focus:	"Root of salvation" (internal/unseen)		"Fruit of salvation" (external/seen)
Purpose:	How to know I'm a Christian		How to show I'm a Christian

Eph 2:8-10 NIV *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

II. WHAT IS REAL FAITH?

1. REAL FAITH IS NOT JUST SOMETHING YOU SAY.

James 2:14 NIV *What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?*

Mat 7:20-23 NIV *Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'*

2. REAL FAITH IS NOT JUST SOMETHING YOU FEEL.

James 2:15-16 NIV *Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?*

1Jn 3:17 NIV *If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?*

Also 3:14-16, 4:7-20

3. REAL FAITH IS NOT JUST SOMETHING YOU THINK.

2Cor 5:17 NIV *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

4. REAL FAITH IS NOT JUST SOMETHING YOU BELIEVE.

James 2:19 NIV *You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.*

5. REAL FAITH IS SOMETHING YOU DO.

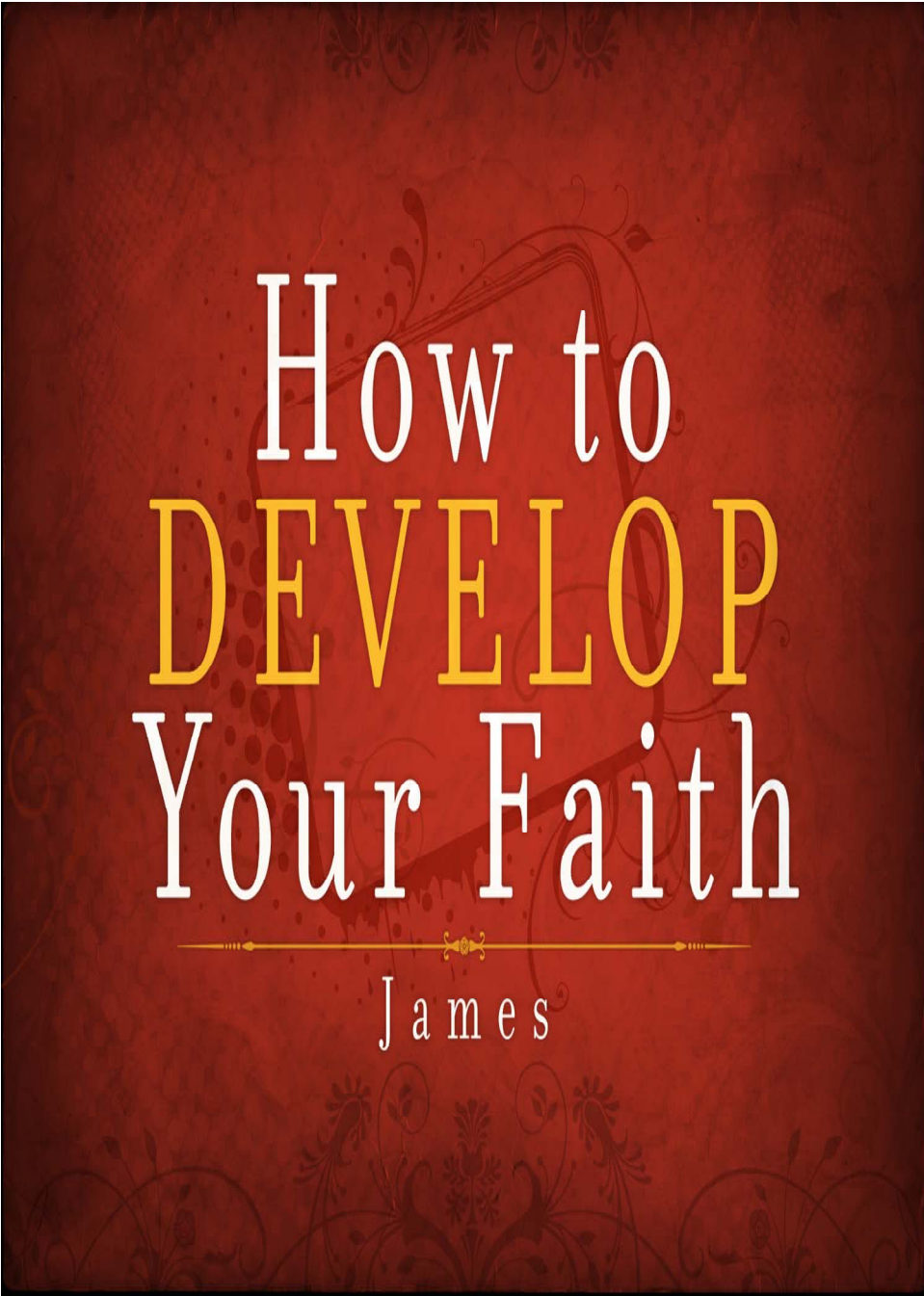
Illustrations: Two very different people

•Abraham (vs. 20-24)

•Rahab (vs. 25)

James 2:25 NIV *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?*

2Cor 13:5 NIV *Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?*



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