

James 2:15-19

I. FALSE COMPASSION - Vs. 15-17

- A. Comparing faith without works to words of compassion without acts of compassion. Dead faith can be characterized by false compassion, a verbal concern for those in need and not having compassion is nothing more than a hypocritical sham.
- B. The need mentioned here indicates that it is not a temporary problem, but a long standing problem.
 - B.1. Without clothing does not mean stark naked, but poorly and insufficiently clothed.
 - B.2. In need of daily food does not indicate starvation, but insufficient nourishment.
- C. Proclaiming the same truth, John ask rhetorically, **“But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?”**
- D. Go in peace, be warm and be filled is a remarkable heartless and foolish statement.
 - D.1. Go in peace is the equivalent of “God bless you”.
 - D.2. Be warm and filled is the equivalent of “God take care of you.”
 - D.3. The structure of this statement indicates an indifferent, cruel and sarcastic attitude.
 - D.4. The rhetorical question is **“what good is it or what does it profit?”**
- E. So many people get emotionally involved in TV shows, popular songs, movies, weeping over tragedies and injustices in these events. Yet, show no concern for their neighbor or compassion for their plight they are in. Acts 2:45 **“And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.”** Cf. Acts 4:32-35; Luke 10:30-35; Matthew 25:34-40

II. SHALLOW CONVICTION - Vs. 18-19

- A. Defined as a recognition of certain facts about God and his word without submission to either.
- B. You cannot show me your faith without works, without any practical evidence or outworking of it, because true faith always gives practical evidence.
- C. You cannot demonstrate “that” kind of faith because there is nothing to demonstrate it with.
- D. Living faith produces good fruit. Dead faith does not. Cf. Matthew 7:15-20
- E. Jesus repeatedly warned against false professions. True saving faith produces change. Cf. Luke 6:46-49
- F. Galatians 5:6 **“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.”** Cf. 2 Peter 1:3-11
- G. Every true Christian has times of unfaithfulness, sin and barrenness. You can lose your assurance, but God is the one who keeps you. There is never peace in your sin as a believer.
- H. You believe but the demons believe too and shudder. Mere mental assent or orthodox doctrine does not mean genuine faith or saving faith. Cf. Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Application: Knowing all the truths about God, heaven, hell, that God does exist, but not exercising these truths through righteous works and behavior, only tells you have a faith that is not

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a saving, regenerating faith. It's only in words not deeds. Many people know the truth about God, but choose to ignore and even hate it.

III. TREMBLING

- A. The word "tremble" means to "shudder" or "bristle" and is often associated with great fear. Demons, at least have the sense to shudder or tremble at God's truth in a state of fear for they know that eternal torment awaits them. Mark 5:7 "And crying out with a loud voice, he said, What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." Mark 4:41a "And demons also came out of many, crying, You are the Son of God!" Acts 19:15 "But the evil spirit answered them, Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?"
- B. Simon's belief in Acts 8:18-22, indicates his belief was not to salvation, but merely a recognition that what Phillip had preached was true. His knowledge about God was correct, but Peter warned him that his heart was not right before God. This is the state of much of modern day evangelicalism.

CONCLUSION

- Professing to be a Christian, but having no evidence is clear your faith isn't saving faith
- Scripture teaches us clearly that a redeemed life produces evidence of being redeemed
- That evidence is "good works" for the glory of God