

# THE BOOK OF JAMES

## *“Can That Faith Save Him?”*

Scripture Reading: JAMES 2:14-19

- ) **SLIDES 1-6.** Bible Jeopardy!
- ) **SLIDES 7-8.** Read today’s Scripture text.
- ) **SLIDE 9.** We continue today in our expository study in the Book of JAMES. This is week #12. I have titled today’s message *“Can That Faith Save Him?”* (2:14).
- ) The context of verses 14 through 26 of JAMES 2 is about faith, belief, and works, and how they are interconnected in the foundation of true Christianity.
- ) I said last week that we would look at these verses according to Protestant theology and also according to Roman Catholic theology. There are eternal differences between them and how these verses are interpreted. But that message will have to wait until another Sunday after Easter. Today we will focus on faith and belief. And I will be covering a lot of Scripture to define these two words.
- ) **SLIDE 10.** What is faith? HEBREWS 11:1. Today let’s look at faith from both a secular view and from a Biblical view.
- ) We all have faith to some degree or another. We go to a restaurant and we eat the food that’s placed before us. That’s faith. We have no clue what’s going on in that kitchen.
- ) We depress the brake pedal in our car and expect our car to stop. That’s faith. Most people, including myself, do not understand the mechanics behind a car’s braking system.
- ) We turn on the faucet in our homes and expect the water to be safe for drinking. That’s faith. Do we really know what is being pumped through those pipes?

- ) But James is not talking about restaurants, car brakes, or water faucets. He is talking about a faith that saves a person. And he does so by asking the question, “*Can that faith save him?*”
- ) **SLIDE 11.** So, what is the faith that saves us? Let’s define this. I often use the term “*saving faith*” to describe the type of faith that does save a person. EPHESIANS 2:8-9.
- ) **SLIDE 12.** ROMANS 5:1-2. We are justified, made right with God, through saving faith.
- ) There are four components that make up saving faith—the faith that will save us. Today we will look at the first two. The third and fourth components to saving faith we will look at the Sunday after Easter.
- ) **SLIDE 13.** The 1<sup>st</sup> component of saving faith is **KNOWLEDGE.** We have to know something to acquire saving faith. And what is that something that we need to know?
- ) **SLIDE 14.** The knowledge we must acquire for saving faith must be the **TRUTH.** We can have a lot of religious knowledge, but knowledge without truth is useless when it comes to salvation. Secular example. Directions to restaurant.
- ) Now the three of us all have knowledge of some sort, right? But only one of us has heard the truth. Therefore, only one of us will successfully get to the restaurant.
- ) **SLIDE 15.** The apostle Paul had an issue with the knowledge of his fellow Jewish leaders. ROMANS 10:1-3. Many of the Jewish leaders at that time had some sort of religious knowledge, but it wasn’t the truth. And when you don’t know the truth, you make something up. Just like two of the three drivers did in my example.
- ) **SLIDE 16.** This knowledge that I must acquire for saving faith must be the truth. Why? JOHN 8:31-32. Truth is the only thing that will set anyone free. Free from what? Free from our sin problem that damns us to hell. Elaborate.

- ) **SLIDE 17.** Saving faith first processes knowledge through the **MIND**. So saving faith starts as knowledge based on truth processed through my mind. That truth cannot be processed by my other faculties unless it starts here (point).
- ) **SLIDE 18.** ROMANS 10:17. The truth of God's Word goes into my mind. That is where saving faith begins. If we are going to have true and genuine saving faith, we must have the true knowledge that saves. And it begins here (point).
- ) **SLIDE 19.** What is the second component of saving faith? The second component of saving faith is **BELIEF**. A person can hear something that is true, and never believe it. Right? Saving faith says we believe in the truth of the knowledge we have. Here are two verses we are all familiar with.
- ) **SLIDE 20.** JOHN 3:16.
- ) **SLIDE 21.** JOHN 6:40. Obviously believing in Jesus is an important component in saving faith. But I have to believe WHAT about Jesus? Most of the world believes something about Jesus. So what is it that I need to know and believe to have this saving faith?
- ) **SLIDE 22.** Well, we covered this when we had the series on "*Getting the Gospel Right.*" 1) Jesus of Nazareth is God incarnate (in the flesh) (JOHN 8:24); 2) Jesus Christ is the only way back to the Father (JOHN 14:6). 3) Jesus Christ died on a cross for the forgiveness of our sins (HEBREWS 9:22). 4) Jesus Christ rose from the dead. (ROMANS 10:9)
- ) **SLIDE 23.** If saving faith first processes knowledge through the mind, what comes next? Saving faith then processes belief through the **HEART**. We must engage the heart in this process of saving faith.
- ) **SLIDE 24.** ROMANS 10:8-10. So the process so far looks like this. STEP #1. We know the truth in our mind about what is necessary for saving faith. But that alone cannot save us.

- ) There are millions of people who have the knowledge of the truth about Jesus and salvation who are not saved.
- ) STEP #2. We believe that truth in our heart about what is necessary for saving faith. The mind and the heart are now engaged in this process. But even these two components cannot save us.
- ) There are millions of people who have the knowledge of the truth about Jesus, who believe in that knowledge and truth who are not saved. I know. I was there the first 40 years of my life.
- ) Why not? Shouldn't knowing the truth and believing that truth be enough for salvation? Doesn't Jesus say in JOHN 3:16 that whoever believes in Him shall never perish? Reminder. The gospel is never found in just one verse.
- ) **SLIDE 25**. JAMES 2:18-19. The demons know the truth about Jesus. The demons believe the truth about Jesus.
- ) **SLIDE 26**. MARK 1:23-24. That demon, that evil spirit, knew that Jesus was the Holy One of God. And he also knew that at some point in time he will be destroyed. He knew that. He believed that. If a person knows the truth about Jesus and believes the truth about Jesus, that makes that person no different than the demons.
- ) Obviously saving faith, the faith that James is talking about in our Scripture text today, must go beyond knowing the truth and believing the truth. It must. That's why James asks the question: "*Can that faith save him?*" Well, it does go beyond the first two components of saving faith. In two weeks we will look at components #3 and #4 and see where the knowledge and belief of the truth must go from here.

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