

Grace Valley Bible Church  
PT: Ron Adema  
Study: Book of James

Date: 1/ 21/ 25  
Text: James 2:14-26  
File: Tuesday

### Lesson: FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD

In our lesson text of Jas.2:14-26, James opened and closed with the same doctrinal statement – *“Faith without works is dead.” (2:17, 26)*

James used the Greek noun for **faith** (*pistis*) **eleven times** and used the verb form (*pisteuo/ believe*) **three times** (2:19 (2x)/ 2:23 (1x)). He used the Greek word for **work** (*ergon*) **12 times**. We learn from this that FAITH and WORKS dominate the subject of our lesson text.

Remember that James is writing to Jewish NC persecuted believers in that transition period from OC Law to NC Grace (James 1:1, 16). **“You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord (Second Coming).” (Jas.5:8)**

Remember that James wrote his book before the First Church Conference of Acts 15 (50AD) where Grace working through Faith became the great doctrinal issue (Acts 15:11-13).

1. We learn an important basic doctrinal principle from James- *“Faith must have a working object to be complete.”*

James makes this doctrinal principle in **Jas.2:22** – *“You see that **faith (he pistis) was working (sunergeo/ impf.a.ind) with his works (tois ergon), and as a result of the works (ton ergon), faith (he pistis) is complete (teleioo/ a.p.ind).**”*

- **If James 2:22 sounds familiar, it is the fourth step in the Faith Cycle.**
2. We will divide our lesson text into three sections of study, **Faith Without Works is dead.**

Jas.2:14-17 – **Faith without works is dead (2:17, 26)**. Note the example of *“Brother and sister in daily need.”*

Jas.2:18-23 – Faith without work is useless (2:20). Note the examples of *“Demons and Abraham.”*

Jas.2:24-26 – Faith without work is unjustified (2:24). Note the examples of *“Rahab and Death.”*

3. What James is teaching is that **Faith must have a working object**. There are two important doctrinal principles we must learn.

**1st doctrinal principle:** *The working object is always the Word of God (CBD/ categorical bible doctrine). Word of God always works because it is based the grace character of God.*

**Gospel of New Covenant is a perfect example of it** (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

**4. Second doctrinal principle** is the importance of **completion of the Faith Cycle in CWL.**

*" You see **faith was working with his works**, and as a result of the works, **faith was perfected or completed** (teleioo/ a.p.ind)." (Jas.2:22/ **2:21-24/ faith cycle/ Gen.22:1-14/ Abraham**)*

Faith cycle works off the doctrine of **Inhale and Exhale** of word of God - "**All Scripture is inspired (God breathed/ inhale and exhale) by God and profitable (1) for teaching, (2) for reproof, (3) for correction, (4) for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.**" (2 Tim.3:16-17)

We will use the example of **Abraham offering of Isaac** to teach the faith cycle (**Gen.22:1-14/ Jas.2:21-24**).

(clockwise)

Hearing (Rom.10:17/ **Gen.22:1-3**)

**INHALE**

**Completing** (Jas.2:22/ **22:13-14**  
**22:4-8**)

(Heb.11:1)

Believing (Heb.4:2/

Rom.4:21

**EXHALE**

(Ps.37:7; 130:5)

Applying (2 Cor.5:7/ **22:9-12**)