



## Getting My Faith Out Of Neutral

December 31, 2011 & January 1, 2012

### Clearing up the Misconceptions:

**#1** – James is talking about “Eternal Salvation”.

*What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds?*

James 2:14a (NIV)

**Fact** – James is talking about living a Christian life that makes a difference in the present world.

**#2** – James is teaching that “good works” are part of the salvation process.

*Can such faith save him?*

James 2:14b (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? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

James 2:15-17 (NIV)

*You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that - and shudder.*

James 2:19 (NIV)

**Fact** – Belief in God alone was never a requirement for eternal life; I must believe Jesus died for my sins.

*This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference ...*

Romans 3:22 (NIV)

**#3** – James is saying we are justified, before God, by works.

*You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.*

James 2:24 (NIV)

**Fact** – James never says Abraham was justified before God by works, but by believing God's plan for salvation.

*And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.*

James 2:23 (NIV)

*What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about - but not before God. What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."*

Romans 4:1-3 (NIV)

*The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness - for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.*

Romans 4:23-25 (NIV)

### We are living out active faith when we ...

Administer compassion to the poor.

*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?*

James 2:16 (NIV)

Concentrate all my efforts on the will of God.

*But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.*

James 2:18 (NIV)

Transform my life into the image of Christ.

*You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?*

James 2:20 (NIV)

Invest all I have in God's plan.

*Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?*

James 2:21 (NIV)

Value my relationship with God above all others.

*And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.*

James 2:23 (NIV)

Embrace the reality that God's grace can transform anybody.

*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?*

James 2:25 (NIV)

*... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

Romans 3:23-24 (NIV)

### ~ MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK ~

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James 2:18 (NIV)

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