

Greater Pleasant Branch Baptist Church

Connect Learn Grow

Wednesday Bible Study - Theme: Pathways to Spirituality

Review of the Book of James- Chapter 2- Lesson # 5- May 5, 2021

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I. Subject: Dynamic Faith- James 2: 21-26

II. Central Focus

You were created to become like Christ- Romans 8: 29-30- Message Translation

III. 2021 Bible Study Motto “ Simply put,we must practice the spiritual disciplines that form pathways to the heart of God and transform us into godly people. Training not trying is the key.” The Complete Book of Discipleship by Bill Hull

IV. Big Idea

Dynamic faith is faith that is real, that has power and results in a changed life .

V. Introduction

In this section of chapter 2, James presents Abraham and Rahab as examples of people who showed dynamic faith by their deeds.

Abraham a Jew and Rahab a Gentile are two very different persons. Abraham was a godly man, however, Rahab was a sinful woman. Abraham was a friend of God, while Rahab was a friend of the enemies of God.What they both had in common was dynamic faith in God.

The examples of Abraham and Rahab demonstrate that dynamic faith obeys God and proves itself in life and works/deeds.

VI. lesson summary

1. Both Abraham and Rahab received the message of God through his word. Abraham received the word directly from God and Rahab received the message of the spies.
2. By offering Isaac on the altar , Abraham proved his faith by obeying the word of God. Verse 22 states that Abraham’s faith and actions/works were working together and as a result his faith was made perfect or complete.

3. The above truth can be stated another way: Abraham was not saved by faith plus works, but by a faith that works.
4. It is also important to note that faith always has an object (who a person believes and what the person believes). In the case of Abraham, God was the object of his faith.
5. Verse 23 restates Genesis 15:6, which is a part of the promise that God made to Abraham that he would have a son. Abraham simply believed the promise of God. Abraham believed in the unseen just because God said it would become reality.
6. Verse 24 refers to Abraham's willingness to offer his son Isaac in obedience to God's command. Abraham demonstrated dynamic faith.
7. Verse 25 refers to the dynamic faith of Rahab who received the message of the spies and realized her city was in danger of being destroyed-Joshua 2:11.

Rahab did something about the message she received- Hebrews 11:31.

Rahab risked her own life to protect the spies.

Rahab risked her life by sharing the good news of deliverance with her family.

Rahab proved her faith was dynamic by her works.

8. Verse 26- James compares dead faith to a dead person. James maintained that a body without the spirit/soul is dead. In the same way a person claiming to have faith but lacking works is spiritually dead.

VII. Application

1. How was Abraham justified ?
2. What is the message regarding dynamic faith expressed in James 2:24 and Ephesians 2:8-10 ?
3. Is there a difference between the faith of Abraham and the faith of Rahab ?
4. How is faith made perfect ?
5. Why was Abraham called the friend of God ?
6. How will you apply this lesson to your heart and life ?