

SUNDAY FAITH DEVELOPMENT INTRODUCTORY REVIEW

February 4, 2018

Faith Without Works Is Dead

James 2:14-26

LESSON OUTLINE

- 1. James 2:14-16 – A QUESTION ABOUT FAITH**
- 2. James 2:17-20 – COMPARISONS WITH FAITH**
- 3. James 2:21-26 - ILLUSTRATIONS OF FAITH**

The Bible Expositor and Illuminator concluded last week's lesson by saying: *"A local church, ...will grow spiritually only when its congregants are strong in the Lord and are consistently growing. Church leadership must seek the Lord with the fervency of Daniel and be open to His direction."*

Today we move to Unit III, Godly Faith. Dictionary.com defines godly, *"conforming to the laws and wishes of God; devout; pious."* Faith is, *"confidence or trust...belief that is not based on proof."* Together they can be said to be putting your trust in God and all His laws.

The lesson moves us to the Book of James. The Holman Study Bible says, *"The book of James is a wonderful companion piece to the teachings of Jesus...James has a strong ethical emphasis that is consistent with the moral teachings Jesus gave to His disciples...the book of James is a source of both exhortation and comfort, both reproof and encouragement."*

The book of James opens addressing the twelve tribes (Jewish Christians), which are scattered about. He talks about trials. He basically says that trials are a test or proof of our faith. Our Joy shows our hope of deliverance from those trials. He says the one who endures is blessed. We should be swift to hear and slow to speak as to produce the righteousness of God.

As chapter two opens with a warning of personal favoritism against others. Fine clothes and jewelry does not equal a greater place with the Father. He said we should love our neighbors as ourselves. Treat others the way you wish to be treated. He goes on to list the "do nots." Do not commit adultery, do not murder.

This is where our lesson opens. What good is a faith that you cannot see? Our lesson will show Faith Without Works Is Dead. But remember you cannot work your way in. May the Holy Spirit speak through our teacher as we study.