

Introduction

1. Check-ups are important aren't they? We may think are healthy, but may not be at all.
 - a. The last physical I had my blood work revealed I was low in salt. Never happened.
 - b. Just as too much salt is not good, so too little is not good. Check-up revealed that.
2. Do you know the Bible teaches us to take spiritual check-ups. (Read 2 Cor. 13:5.)¹
 - a. If a physical check-up is important, a spiritual check-up is even more crucial.
 - b. Eternity is at stake. So we are to check to examine the quality of our faith.
3. The unexamined life isn't worth living.² James = The unexamined faith not worth having.
4. Spiritual check-up today. Examine the quality of our faith. James says ⇒ (give title)

I. DEAD FAITH: FAITH THAT STAYS IN YOUR HEAD (vv. 14-17)**A. If Someone Says**

1. Person thinks that faith means believing right things and saying right words.
2. Doesn't matter how live as long as have right beliefs and profess to be saved.
3. For this person faith stops at the neck.
 - a. It is all about what I believe in my head and say with my mouth.
 - b. But there is no essential connection with the way I live my life.
4. Right away James is dealing with the nature of saving faith.
 - a. Is it passive merely believing the correct doctrines/saying right words?
 - b. Or is it active producing a change in the way we live, act, & our priorities?

B. James' Answer

1. Two questions expect a "NO" answer (very clear in original language).
2. What good is it? Does this faith have any advantage/better off? No.
3. Can that faith save him? Notice the word **THAT**.
 - a. James does not say, Can faith save him? Definite article is present in Greek.
 - b. Can that faith save him? What faith? Faith stays in the head; no further. No.

C. James' Illustration (vv. 15-16)

1. Suppose come to church and meet member in lobby—let's call her Penny.
 - a. She doesn't have a coat on. Very cold day. You ask, Penny, where's your coat?
 - b. She explains her husband lost his job. As look closer you see she looks unwell.
 - c. Ran out of food, she replies. You exclaim...Poor thing. Let pray for you. Verse 16.
 - d. If don't help Penny, what good is it, v. 17? Same question from v. 14. It's no good.
 - e. To pray over someone and do nothing when you can help them is phony baloney.
2. Conclusion v. 17. Passive faith is dead faith. It is non-saving.
 - a. Can be a real danger for us who've gone thru all motions, but don't live for Jesus.
 - b. Carl's story who I visited in hospital with serious illness. Asked if Christian.³

¹ <http://image.slidesharecdn.com/questionandanswernight-4-1-12-120401172639-phpapp02/95/question-and-answer-night4112-26-728.jpg?cb=1333301292>. Accessed 9/3/16.

² Socrates quoted in Plato's *Apology*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_unexamined_life_is_not_worth_living. 9/3/16.

³ Carl said went forward at EABC and that made him a Christian. But there was no worship, no Bible study, no fellowship, no service for Jesus. Nothing. As I talked to Carl it was apparent to me he was deceiving himself. He had dead faith. Some people will miss heaven by 18-inches.

II. EMOTIONAL FAITH: FAITH THAT (ONLY) STIRS YOUR EMOTIONS (vv. 18-20)**A. James' Shocking Statement**

1. Did you know that demons have faith (fallen angels rebelled against God)?
 - a. Intended to shock James' readers. God is one (Deut. 6:4-9).
 - b. Doctrinal statement of Jews confessing monotheism.⁴
 - c. You've heard people say, I'm not very religious, but I believe in God.
 - d. James says, So what! The demons believe that too.
2. It is an amazing thing to realize the things that demons believe.⁵ (**Show**)
 - a. God exists (James 1:19). Jesus is God (Mark 3:11).
 - b. There is future punishment (Luke 8:31). Jesus is the final Judge (Mark 5:7, 8).
3. That's pretty good theology. Whole lot more than many people believe.
4. Yet, no one would suggest that demons are going heaven. Know this in their head.

B. What's The Difference?

1. If passive faith is head faith, and demons have head faith, what's the difference?
2. Demons go even 1 step further. V. 19 says they believe and shudder.
 - a. Demons are stirred in their emotions.
 - b. When they met Jesus trembled emotionally at the prospect of God's judgment.
 - c. Hell was created for Satan & his demons. They're afraid of judgment to come.
3. Person can be enlightened in his mind and even stirred in his [emotions] and be lost forever.⁶
4. Tell about tender prayer of repentance from a man now even further fr. Lord.
5. I am not the judge. But I fear he had emotive faith - believed w/head, stirred in feelings.
6. The Bible's verdict on emotional faith is in v. 20.

III. SAVING FAITH: FAITH THAT TRUSTS FROM YOUR WHOLE HEART (vv. 21-26)**A. Explain The Heart**

1. Heart = center of our inner life, includes whole personality (mind/emotions/will)
2. Heart faith whole person (mind believes in Christ, emotions desire Christ, will acts).
 - a. Saving faith is all that I am responding to all that Jesus is.
 - b. Heart faith believes in JC, wants JC, entrusts oneself to JC completely.
 - c. Heart faith cries out to Him to be Savior and surrenders to Him to be Lord.
 - d. That kind of faith changes one's life. That's why called active—leads to action, v.22.

B. The Evidences of Active Faith (Show comparison of Abraham & Rahab)⁷

1. (Saving faith leads to obeying God, vv. 21-24).
 - a. These vv. trouble us because seem contradict Apostle Paul (Rom 3:28). (**Show**)⁸
 - b. Answer is to understand that both use justified in diff. but complementary ways.
 - i. Paul = **LEGAL** sense (Declared righteous by God based on faith, v. 23)

⁴ Synagogues still open with this confession, Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One.

⁵Cf. Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Mature*. (a study of James), p. 355.

⁶Ibid., p. 355.

⁷ http://images.slideplayer.com/23/6905347/slides/slide_84.jpg. Accessed 9/3/16.

⁸ James 2:24 vs. Romans 3:28. http://images.slideplayer.com/12/3487930/slides/slide_6.jpg. Accessed 9/3/16.

- ii. James = **PRACTICAL** sense (demonstrate/prove something to be true, v. 24).
 - c. **The root of justification is by faith; the fruit of justification is by works.**⁹ (**Show**)
 - d. Let's apply this to Abraham's life.
 - i. In Gen. 15 **Ab. believed God and it was credited** . . . (see v. 23). **LEGAL** sense.
 - ii. In Gen. 22 Ab. **offered His son Isaac on the altar** (v. 21). **PRACTICAL** sense.
 - iii. Conclusion is in v. 22. This = 1st evidence of saving faith. (**Show point 1**)
 - e. Ab. believed he was going to have to kill his son & God would raise Him up again.
 - f. He wanted to please God & do His will even when there was a cost.
- 2. (Saving faith leads to loving God's people, vv. 25-26).**
- a. All of us know about the battle of Jericho where walls came tumbling down.
 - b. Only know one person – Rahab. (**Show comparison of Abraham & Rahab again**)
 - i. When the Israelite spies came into the city she welcomed them into her home.
 - ii. When Jericho soldiers came & said, **Where are they?** She hid them on rooftop.
 - iii. She risked her life & life of her whole family to protect those spies from death.
 - iv. And then she let them down thru a window so they could escape.
 - c. Rahab embraced people of God. That's what saving faith does. (**Show point 2**)
 - d. She served Lord by serving them. She loved God by loving His people.
 - e. Tell about lady w/black eyes Pastor Jim Carlson won who straightens pews on Fri.¹⁰

Introduction

1. **What great faith Rahab had!** (**Show excellent summary of her faith w/head, heart, will.**)¹¹
2. Do you have this kind of faith? This is the real thing?

⁹ <http://cdn.knowing-jesus.com/wp-content/uploads/James-214-Someone-Says-He-Has-Faith-And-No-Works-gray-copy.jpg>. Accessed 9/3/16.

¹⁰ Lived w/alcoholic boyfriend who beat up. No one turn to when knock came. Someone from church who reached out to her. She began attending. Found Jesus as her Savior thru the Pastor. Said still be where she was being abused by that man if that church hadn't showed her the love of Jesus. Every Friday straightened pews to show love to God's people and thank Jesus for saving her. She's a modern day Rahab.

¹¹ <http://www.slideshare.net/pdcoc92255/100207-how-to-live-your-faith-10-faith-works-james-2-14-26>. Slide #26. Accessed 9/3/16.