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BIBLE STUDY

LIVING FAITH VERSUS DEAD FAITH.

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James 2:17

"So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead".

Apostle James is trying to instruct us that there are two categories of faith.

(1) faith that has works and is known as living faith

(2) faith that does not have works and is thus dead faith.

Works and faith are not the same thing.

The Difference Between Living Faith And Dead Faith.

Dead faith may at first glance look suspiciously like living faith, but in reality, it is a whitewashed tomb. Dead faith is static, infertile, full of fear, full of obligation, and lacking in love.

Living faith is dynamic, active, growing, good fruit-producing, full of love, full of conviction, and full of repentance.

Many Christians today have faith with no results, and that is so sad. James gave some insight as to why this is so.

Many people claim to have faith, but what kind of faith do they have?

Only divine faith brings results, but you have to use it if you want to see those results.

Jesus asked the disciples, Where is your faith (Luke 8:25)? He knew they had faith because the Bible declares, God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Romans 12:3

[3]For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith".

The problem was that the disciples were not using their faith because they let fear take them over, so they didn't get anything done.

It is the same way with people today—they won't use what God has given them.

If you don't have any works to go along with your faith, you have dead faith; and that kind of faith does not reach the throne of God.

In times of crisis, dead faith won't work for you; and it won't be able to lead you through your deepest valleys and your darkest nights.

Living Faith gives you a direct line to the throne of God any time of the day or night, so you can call Jesus any time.

Just say, "Father, I come to you in the name of Jesus"; and immediately, you will be connected with the throne. The blood has made Heaven so close to children of God that the Bible says, Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16).

James said, "Show me your faith." It is wonderful for people to see the works of God through a child of God; and if you have God's faith, it will work.

When I was a child, I saw the works of God week after week in my home because my father had living faith, Jesus faith; and he used it.

When one of the children got sick, my daddy prayed for us before he did anything else; and we had many miracles and healings in our home.

His prayers were stronger than any medicine.

Jesus said, "These signs shall follow them that believe...they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (Mark 16:17,18).

That was a way of life for me as a young boy.

I saw my father praying and laying hands on the sick, and they got well.

DEAD FAITH

Dead faith is when we say we believe in God and Jesus but really these are just abstract ideas not concrete reality.

And because they are just ideas and not reality, we don't take them seriously and we don't apply them to our lives.

Dead faith is when we don't live our faith.

Dead faith is we believe in God, but we don't live our lives as if it's real because we tend to lose the feeling something is real when we can't experience it concretely through our senses of sight, or hearing or touch. We know ideas but we can't touch them so we're not sure they are real.

But a tangible reality is something we can see and touch and feel.

Dead faith is learning the ideas of religion without experiencing they are real.

How can we go from a dead faith to a living faith?

To move from a dead to a living faith it can help to experience a concrete manifestation of the abstract idea we profess.

Once we see something as concrete and real, then we are more apt to live according to that reality. But then we need to cultivate an awareness of that reality because it