

# FAITH

*4 Important Questions*



- **There is no distinction between the nature of pre-conversion faith and post-conversion faith.**
- **I must have faith to please God; faith embraces obedience and trust toward God - Hebrews 11.6**
- **Works are not a substitute for faith; neither is faith a substitute for works.**
- **Responsibilities are different (Acts 8.12f vs. 8.18ff), but the nature of faith is the same.**

**“Is a sinner’s faith different than a Christian’s faith?”**

**Question # 1**  
*James 2.14-26*



- **A question of quality (“that faith”), not existence.**
- **What kind of faith is impotent to save?**
  - **A faith that is mere talk.**
  - **A faith that is not active:**
    - **Not active toward God - Colossians 2.10-12; James 2.22-23**
    - **Not active toward others - James 2.15-17; 1.27**

**“Can that faith save him?”**

**Question #2**  
*James 2.14*



- **James appeals to two notable OT examples to demonstrate the true nature of faith:**
  - **Abraham needed more than belief to be justified before God - Genesis 22; Hebrews 11.17-19**
  - **Rahab was justified when her faith was accompanied by works - Joshua 2; Hebrews 11.31**
- **Both had faith; both had works — both were necessary to be justified before God - James 2.24,26**

**“Weren’t Abraham and Rahab justified by works?”**

**Question #3**  
*James 2.21,25*



- **So much of our response to God is dependent upon placing our prejudices aside.**
  - **James' audience needed fix their attitude toward the poor - James 2.1-4**
  - **Jesus' audience needed to fix their motivation - John 12.42**
  - **Our prejudices can defeat God's movement in our lives through His word - James 1.21-22**
- **Am I willing to hear messages that challenge me?**
- **Am I willing to do whatever is necessary to submit to God?**

**“Are you willing to realize...?”**

**Question #4**  
*James 2.20*



- **Faith is an essential component in our salvation.**
- **Works are an essential component in our salvation.**
- **Faith without works is a dead faith.**
- **Works without faith are empty rituals.**
- **Faith and works are not mutually exclusive!**

**What James 2  
Teaches:**

