

James 2:12-26
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¹²Seak thus and do (poieo) as being about to be being judged by the law of liberty, ¹³for the judgment (is) merciless to the ones not having done (poieo) mercy. Mercy (is) boasting over judgment! ¹⁴What (is) the profit, my brothers, if someone may say to be having faith, but he may not be having works? The faith is not having power to deliver him. ¹⁵Now if a brother or sister may exist completely naked and may be being destitute of daily food, ¹⁶and any one of you may say to them, “Go away in peace, be warmed, and be filled,” but you may not give to them the essentials of the body, what (is) the profit? ¹⁷Thus also the faith, if it may not be having works, is dead...in a place (all by) itself.

¹⁸But someone will say, “You are having faith, and I am having works; show to me the faith of yours out of your works, and I will show to you, out of my works, the faith of mine. ¹⁹You are believing that God is one, you are doing (poieo) good; and the demons are believing, and they are trembling.

You

Are having faith
 State a belief, demonstrate
 with a work

Objector

I am having works
 Do a work that demonstrates
 my belief

Point: cannot demonstrate a connection between faith and works.

You

Believe God is one
 You are doing good

Demons

Believe God is one
 Are trembling in judgment

Point: same beliefs produce different works.

Conclusion: There is no observable, predictable relationship between faith and works.

²⁰But you are having in your mind, already knowing, O fallacious man, that the faith without works is dead. ²¹Was not Abraham, our father, justified out of works, having offered up Isaac, his son, upon the altar? ²²You are seeing that the faith was working together with his works and out of the works the faith was made mature. ²³And the Scripture was fulfilled which says “Abraham believed in God, and it was reckoned to him unto righteousness,” and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴See then, truly, that out of works a person is being justified, and not out of faith only. ²⁵Now likewise has not Rahab the prostitute been justified out of works, having received the messengers and another way having sent out? ²⁶For exactly like the body without a spirit is dead, thus also the faith without works is dead.