

James 2:12-19

12-13. So speak and so do as those who will be **JUDGED by the LAW of liberty. For judgment is without MERCY to the one who has shown no mercy.** Mercy triumphs over judgment.

- **James 1:25** "But he who _____ into the perfect _____ of _____ and continues in it, and is not a forgetful _____ but a _____ of the work, this one will be _____ in what he does."
- **Matthew 18:32-33** "Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You _____ servant! I _____ you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had _____ on your fellow servant, just as I had _____ on you?'"
- **Luke 6:36-37** "Therefore be _____, just as your Father also is _____. Judge not, and you shall not be judged. _____ not, and you shall not be _____. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."

Definition: "Judgment is WITHOUT MERCY to the one who has shown NO MERCY" - We are told in God's word **not to judge one another by outward appearances**, and not to be judgmental (showing no mercy) on others when we have sin in our own lives. When we have sin in our lives, **we sure want OTHERS to have mercy and compassion on US, and "give us a break"!** "Mercy triumphs over judgment" means both our own showing mercy and compassion to others, and God showing mercy to us. Jesus said, 'With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you,' **so show mercy to others by not being critical and judgmental**, and not only they, but God Himself will show mercy to you! This also has implications in regards to **our ETERNAL JUDGMENT**, because when a person shows no mercy or compassion to others, it may indicate that he or she has never responded to the mercy of God by believing in Jesus Christ. In this sense, "Mercy triumphs over judgment" would mean that **the one who is SAVED by faith in Jesus Christ is READY for the Judgment Day**, because Christ has taken our judgment upon Himself on the cross, and been judged for us.

- **Mark 4:24** "And He said to them, 'Take heed what you hear. With the _____ you _____, it will be _____ to _____; and to you who hear, more will be given.'"
- **Matthew 7:1-5** "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what _____ you _____, you will be _____; and with the same _____ you _____, it will be measured _____ to _____. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let _____ remove the speck out of _____ eye,' and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First _____ the plank from your _____ eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye."
- **John 5:24** "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and _____ in Him who sent Me has _____ life, and shall _____ come into _____, but has passed from _____ into _____."

14. What does it profit, my brethren, if someone **SAYS he has FAITH but does not have WORKS? Can faith save him?**

- **Romans 4:1-11** "What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by _____, he has something of which to boast, but _____ before _____. For what does the Scripture say? 'Abraham _____ God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.' Now to him who _____, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does _____ work but _____ on Him who justifies the ungodly, his _____ is accounted for righteousness, just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes _____ apart from _____: 'Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin.'
- **Titus 3:4-7** "But when the kindness and the _____ of _____ our Savior toward man appeared, _____ by _____ of righteousness which we have done, but according to His _____. He saved us, by the washing of regeneration (being born again) and renewing of the _____, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior....."

Definition: "Has FAITH but does not have WORKS" - The Bible tells us over and over again that **we are SAVED by GRACE through FAITH, as a FREE GIFT from God, and not by the WORKS of the law.** However, "works" in the context of James 2:14-26 means EVIDENCE that your faith in Christ is REAL. **TRUE FAITH will always have corresponding action.** In James 2:14-26, there is a warning to beware of those who are just "full of hot air" and show no real change in their lives or have anything to show for their supposed faith in Christ. A person who has asked God to take control of their life and Jesus to come into their heart SHOULD start acting like Jesus, even if only in small ways at first. A new Believer, of course, wouldn't have as many "works" as someone who has been saved a long time, but **they should have some EVIDENCE or PROOF in their life that indicate their faith is real.** A hunger for God's word, a desire to please Him and obey Him whenever they find out something in their life is not right, a desire to fellowship with God's people, and a concern that friends and family members come to know Christ - all of these things are **just a few of the evidences** that a person should have if their faith is real. **Some other Scriptures call it FRUIT** (John 15:1-8, Galatians 5:22-23) rather than WORKS, but in this context they mean the same thing.

- **Galatians 5:16 & 19-25** "I say then: Walk in the _____, and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the _____." "Now the works of the _____ are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like..... But the _____ of the _____ is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are _____ have crucified the _____ with its passions and desires. If we _____ in the _____, let us also _____ in the Spirit."
- **John 15:8** "By this is My _____ glorified, that you bear much _____; so you will [prove to be] My _____."

Definition: "Can FAITH SAVE him?" - Another way to say this would be, "Can **FAITH alone** SAVE him?" or "Can **this kind of FAITH** SAVE him?" True saving faith will ALWAYS have "works" or "fruit" (corresponding actions) to go along with it. As Christians, **our words must be matched by our deeds.**

- **Ephesians 2:8-10** "For by grace you have been saved through _____, and that _____ of yourselves (or your works), it is the _____ of God; _____ of _____, lest anyone should boast. For we are His

_____, created in Christ Jesus for _____
_____, which God prepared beforehand that we should _____
in _____."

15-17. If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,' but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also **faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.**

- **Matthew 25:34-40** "Then the King (Jesus) will say to those on his right hand, 'Come, you _____ of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was _____ and you gave Me _____; I was thirsty and you gave Me _____; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was _____ and you _____ me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You _____ and _____ You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or _____ and _____ You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My _____, you did it to Me.'"
- **Luke 3:11** "He answered and said to them, 'He who has _____ tunics (jackets, shirts), let him _____ to him who has _____; and he who has _____, let him do likewise.'"

Definition: "If a BROTHER or SISTER is NAKED and destitute of daily FOOD" - "Destitute of daily food" means not having enough to eat. "Brother or sister" means our brothers and sisters in Christ - other Christians. Jesus said in Matthew 25:34-40 that **if we feed and clothe our brothers and sisters in Christ, we are doing it to Jesus Himself.**

- **I John 3:17** "But whoever has this world's goods (food, clothing, etc.), and sees his _____ in _____, and shuts up his _____ from him, _____ does the _____ of God abide in him?"

Definition: "FAITH by itself, if it does not have WORKS, is dead" - Again, the "works" spoken of here are **evidences** that a person's faith is real! Also, the works referred to here are not the works of the law, as in the Old Testament, but **are the WORKS of LOVE from the commandments of Jesus** in the New Testament. It does no good to just say to someone, **"I LOVE you and care about you,"** but you do nothing to help meet their physical needs with food, clothing, warm blankets, etc.

- **Romans 13:8-10** "Owe no man anything except to _____ one _____, for he who _____ another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'You shall not covet,' and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, 'You shall _____ your neighbor as _____.' _____ does no harm to a neighbor; therefore _____ is the fulfillment of the law."
- **I John 2:7** "Brethren, I write no new _____ to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the _____. The old commandment is the _____ which you heard from the beginning."
- **I John 3:11** "For this is the _____ that you heard from the _____, that we should _____ one _____."

- **I John 3:23** "And this is His _____, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and _____ one _____, just as He commanded us."

18-19. But someone will say, 'You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith without your works, and **I will show you my faith by my works**. You believe that there is one God. You do well. **Even the demons believe - and tremble!**

- **Mark 1:34** "Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many _____; and He did not allow the _____ to speak, because they _____ Him."
- **Mark 3:11** "And the unclean spirits, whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried out, saying, 'You are the _____ of _____.'"

Definition: "Even the DEMONS BELIEVE - and TREMBLE!" - James is a warning against just having "intellectual assent" rather than FAITH. James 2:19 says, "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe - and tremble!" You see, just believing in the existence of God is not enough. **The demons believe that Jesus is the Christ, and they know who He is.** In Mark 1:23 26 and Matthew 8:28-29, **the demons cried out to Jesus, "I know who You are, the Holy One of God!"** Intellectual BELIEF would also be like saying, "I believe George Washington was the first president of the United States." **That would be a true statement**, but it isn't Biblical FAITH. Bible faith, the kind of faith necessary for salvation, means **to put your whole life in God's hands, and to TRUST in Jesus with your whole heart.** It also means believing that Jesus died on the cross and shed His precious BLOOD to PAY for your sins. The demons have NOT put their faith and trust in Jesus - they just have knowledge of who He is. They also "tremble" in fear of Him, because they know it is Jesus who will throw them into the Lake of Fire at the great Judgment Day.

- **Matthew 8:28-29** "When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two _____ - _____ men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, 'What have we to do with You, _____, You _____ of _____? Have you come here to _____ us before the time?'"

Definition: "I will SHOW you my FAITH BY my WORKS" - There is a popular saying that goes, "If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough **evidence** to convict you?" Do people know there is something different about you now that you are a Christian, or do you act just the same as you always did? St. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the gospel always, and when necessary, use words." We are talking about the kind of witness we have before non-believers. Do they **see Christ in us**, or at least see us on our way and in the process of being changed and transformed? Philippians 2:12-13 says our salvation must be "WORKED OUT" so that it can be seen on the outside. Jesus said in Matthew 5:16 that **our good WORKS would be SEEN by men**, and because of them, it would cause men to glorify God. In John 15:8, Jesus said the Father would be glorified by our producing MUCH FRUIT, which is another way to refer to our good works.

- **Matthew 5:16** "Let your light so shine before _____, that they may _____ your _____ and glorify your Father in heaven."
- **Philippians 2:12-13** "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed..... _____ your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is _____ who _____ in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."

- **Isaiah 32:17** "The _____ of _____ will be _____, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever."