

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

October 10, 2018

### James 2: 19-26

**James 2: 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder.**

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

“James makes a declaration of monotheism that reflects the well-known Jewish creed called the Shema. Shema is Hebrew for “hear.” The Shema became the Jewish confession of faith, which was recited by pious Jews every morning and evening. It is still used today at the beginning of every synagogue service.” (NIV Study Notes) “This kind of hearing refers to intelligently hearing with obedience. Hearing can be both intellectual and spiritual. Spiritually, one is to hear God’s Word and agree with its intention or petition. To have a hearing heart is to have discernment or understanding. (1Kings 3: 9 “So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”(Strong’s Concordance/Hebrew Dictionary)

The second part of James 2: 19 says, “Good! Even the demons believe that and shudder.”

Even the demons believe in God's existence, but simply assenting to that fact will not take them to heaven. (EE Intl. Study Guide) James believes that righteous action is evidence of genuine faith. (NIV Study Guide) Paul wrote, "For in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love." (Galatians 5:6)

Matthew 8: 28,29 When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. "What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted.

**Q- What is the difference between the demons' belief and the faith required for eternal salvation?**

The difference between the demon's faith and saving faith is a question of who have we entrusted our life and our future to? Who has the final say on our lifestyle decisions? Demons have already made their choice to follow Satan.

Jesus said: "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9: 23)

"People may believe in God, angels, heaven, and hell, yet never trust Christ as their Lord and Savior." (John MacArthur's commentary)

Luke 4:33,34 In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an evil spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, “Ha! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!”

**Q - Is just knowing who Jesus is going to get you into heaven?**

**James 2: 20,21** You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?

**Q- Do good deeds that are not motivated by faith in Jesus have any value in God’s eyes?**

Matthew 7:22-23 Many will say to me on that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles? Then I will tell you plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

“Good deeds should be done out of gratitude for eternal life.”  
(EE Intl. Study Guide)

Hebrews 6:9-12 Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are confident of better things in your case – things that accompany salvation. God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate



those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

This is a call for perseverance in faith as an evidence of salvation. (NIV Study Notes)

**James 2: 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.**

Hebrews 11:17 By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son,

1Thessalonians 1:3 We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

**James 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend**

Genesis 15:6 Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Romans 4:3 What does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteous.”

2Chronicles 20:7 O our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?

This designation further describes Abraham's relationship to God as one of complete acceptance. (NIV Study note)

**James 2: 24 You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.**

"A man is justified (declared righteous before God) by faith alone, but not by a faith that is alone." (Martin Luther)

**James 2: 25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different a direction?**

(Open your Bibles to Joshua 2)

James is commending Rahab for her faith which she demonstrated by helping the spies. (Hebrews 11:31) Rahab is a testimony to God's boundless grace that can reach down and redeem and raise any sinner to eternal dignity. (NIV Study Notes)

Hebrews 11:31 By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

**James 2:26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.**

“Faith is the root, good works are the fruits, and we must see to it that we have both. We must not think that either, without the other, will justify and save us. This is the grace of God wherein we stand, and we should stand to it.” (Matthew Henry’s Commentary)

James 2:17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

James 2:20 You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?

“Faith, says James, without a corresponding change of life, without a transformation, has no evidence and therefore is not real. “Be ye doers of the Word.” That means that whatever has happened in your life produces obedience to Scripture and not just hearers deceiving your own selves. In other words, don’t be under the illusion that because you hear truth and your mind affirms truth that that is enough. Start producing truth in your living.” (John Macarthur Commentary)

“Where true faith is, there is God; his Spirit gives life, and his love affords motives to righteous actions.” (Adam Clarke’s Commentary)