

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for March 27-28, 1999**

**"Faith and Works"**

**James 2:14-26**

**Dale Whitehead**

The "Response to trials test" (James 1;2-18)

The "Response to the Word test" (James 1:19-27)

The "Impartiality test" (James 2:1-13)

The "works" test (James 2:14-24)

The genuineness of a profession of faith is evidenced more by what a person does than by what he says. A person who professes faith in Christ but who does not live a Christ honoring, Christ obeying life is self deceived and exposes his so-called faith as dead (Matthew 3:7-9; 7:16-21; John 2:23-25; 3:2-3).

Genuine transforming faith not only should, but will, produce genuine good works, notably repentance and obedient submission to Christ's lordship. This is the expression of the new nature, created in the new birth. It will not be perfect obedience and repentance, but good works will be present (Ephesians 2:8-10).

Dead Faith (James 2:14-20)

Empty confessions (James 2:14)

The phrase "If someone says he has faith," governs the interpretation of the entire passage. James does not say that this person actually has saving faith but that he claims to have it.

The verb form in the phrase "he has no works" describes someone who continually lacks evidence to support the claim of faith he routinely makes.

The question, "Can that faith save him?" is not offered to dispute the importance of faith, but to oppose the idea that just any kind of faith can save. The grammatical form of the question calls for a negative answer — "no, it cannot save."