

2:14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?  
Can faith save him?

2:15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,

2:16 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?

2:17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

2:18 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.

2:19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe-and tremble!

2:20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?

2:22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?

2:23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.

2:24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

2:25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?

2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Good morning everyone.

The day before yesterday was the best moon of the Mid-Autumn season. It was a beautiful day and we could see the moon clearly at night. The mornings and evenings are cool and sometimes chilly, and the days are sometimes hot like summer.

Today we open the second half of the book of James chapter 2.

From the beginning of the book of James, the importance of faith was noted.

1:2 My brethren. If you meet with trials, consider them as very pleasant.

1:3 For as you know, the testing of faith produces endurance.

1:4 Therefore, work out your endurance so that you may be perfect and complete, without defect.

Faith must be tested. I think it can be understood in the way that doing so produces perseverance, which in turn produces a living faith with perseverance.

In the midst of various trials, we are to overcome them by faith, drunk with the core that we can overcome this trial because we believe in it. Faith is not just an ornament in the alcove, but when we see the metal tools that we use every day, shiny and shiny, and used to fit our hands perfectly, shining or sharpened through friction by touching them with our hands and putting effort into them, we can understand how important they are to that craftsman. I wonder if faith is such a practical and familiar means and means for us to live our lives.

We know very well that when we go to a driving school for months to get a driver's license, take the test, and finally get the license, it is so that we can drive our car on public roads by ourselves, not so that we can frame it and admire it. I think we are being told that it is the same thing if you have faith but don't put it to work.

It is good when we are at peace, but when something happens, how we think, think, and act in the midst of that fact, we need to stand firm in faith, believe, and cultivate not just skinny patience, but firm patience because we believe in God at all times, which is awe-inspiring. This is what it means to "become perfect and complete, without any defects".

2:14 My brethren! What good is it if a man claims to have faith, but he has no works? Can his faith save him?

Much has been written about faith and its importance. But here we read about the kind of faith that lives and works, the kind of faith that helps us, that saves us, that is useful.

16 If any one of you says to him, "Go in peace. 16 What good is it if one of you says only, "Go in peace, be warm and fed," and gives his body nothing that it needs?

17 Faith, likewise, is dead by itself if it is not accompanied by deeds.

This faith must be useful for ourselves, and it must at the same time be useful for those around us through the practice of faith.

Faith requires us to give generously to those around us who lack food and clothing.

Faith is always our conscience before God, the real part of our heart. How we always live before God in this genuine part of our heart, so that we examine our faith and the life of faith moves, speaks, urges, and leads us to action in our hearts, the Bible tells us that this is a living faith.

2 Corinthians 13:3 For you are looking for evidence that you are speaking in me, Christ. Christ is not weak against you, but strong in you.

13:4 That is, Christ was crucified in weakness, but He lives by the power of God. Thus also we are weak in Christ, but against you we live with Him by the power of God.

13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye have faith, and examine yourselves. Or do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you? If you do not realize it, you will be cast down as phonies.

13:6 But I want you to know that you are not abandoned.

Verse 17 says that faith, likewise, is dead unless accompanied by deeds, which may sound harsh, but this is not a word to judge someone's faith as dead, but a blessedly strong exhortation to keep the faith alive. 18 But "some people have faith, but others do not.

18 But who says, "Some have faith and others have works. Then show me your faith without works. Then I will show you faith by my deeds.

19 Do you believe that there is only one God? That is well and good. Even the demons believe and tremble.

20 Ah, thou fool! Do you want to know the futility of faith without works?

The Bible tells us that if we have faith, all is well with it, and that we should search the depth of our faith in what we think is all right. If faith is an intellectual understanding of God, the Bible tells us that even demons can score points on that answer. Even demons know that there is only one God, and they are so familiar with God's power and authority that they tremble with fear of judgment for their disobedience to God. Therefore, the Bible says, what good is it if we only know God in a cursory way? Search, probe, and know more deeply about faith, and it will not be just a piece of knowledge, but it will be a saving power that lives and moves in you, and it will be the source of your actions, and you will be guided and moved by this faith, speaking, doing, and not sitting still. The Bible tells us that it is impossible to look at someone in need, say something nice, pray just a little, and leave the scene without doing anything. God, the Creator of the world, the Authority, the One who created the world, has brought mankind back to Himself and into a right relationship with Him through the substitutionary death of His beloved only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross, for those who have left Him in rebellion and self-inflicted self-desire. How can those who have been

truly informed of God's magnificent and unprecedented grace of bringing them into a right relationship with God and making them, as God's children, heirs of the Kingdom promised to those who love God, continue to be cold-hearted bystanders, without action?

Ah, the foolish man (who is empty-handed and has nothing in his hands)," he says, "but faith without deeds is vain. It is really empty. It is a theoretical, pictorial theory. It is useless and cannot save people.

13 For those who have not exercised mercy, judgment without provision will come upon them. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

17 Faith, likewise, is dead by itself, if it is not accompanied by deeds.

21 Was not our father Abraham justified by deeds when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?

22 For thou knowest that in him faith worketh together with works, and by his works faith is fulfilled,

23 Thus it was said, "Abraham believed God, and he was justified by his deeds. Thus was fulfilled the words of the Scriptures, "Abraham believed God, and by that he was justified," and he was called "the friend of God.

24 As you can see, it is by works, and not by faith alone, that a man is justified.

25 In the same way, was not even Rahab, the prostitute, justified by her deeds when she entertained the messengers and sent them out of the other way?

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead.

For Abraham, it was the height of absurdity to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac, whom he had waited so long for and was finally miraculously given. What a terrible person God is. If He wants to make us so happy and then watch us grow up, nurture us, love us, and then kill us, why not just not give us the child in the first place? What on earth was all this about? Even we, if we heard such a command from God, would not understand it, but would fall into anger and disbelief in God and cast aside all faith. We would probably confront God head-on, saying that we cannot overlook such absurdity and that there are things that are right and wrong to say, no matter how much God may be.

But Abraham obeyed.

Genesis 22:1 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "O Abraham! He said,

"Here I am."

22:2 And God said, "Take your son, your beloved only son Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him as a burnt offering on the mountain which I will show you.

22:3 And Abraham arose early in the morning, and set the rack upon his ass, and took the two lads, and Isaac his son, and broke the burnt offering, and stood up, and went out to the place which God had shown him.

22:4 On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place afar off.

22:5 Then Abraham said to the young men, "You stay here with the asses. I and the strawman will go over there to worship, and then we will return to you.

22:6 And Abraham took the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and took fire and a knife in his hand, and they went together.

22:7 And Isaac said to Abraham his father, "Father! He answered, "Son, here I am. Isaac said, "Where is the fire and the firewood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

22:8 Abraham said, "Son, God Himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering. And they went together.

22:9 And when they came to the place which God had shown him, Abraham built there an altar, and laid out the burnt offering, and bound his son Isaac, and laid him upon the altar-burnt offering.

22:10 And when Abraham put forth his hand, and was about to slay his son with a knife,

22:11 And a messenger of the Lord called to him from heaven, saying, "Abraham, Abraham! He answered, "Yes, I am here.

22:12 And the messenger said, "Do not lay a hand on the straw. Do not lay a hand on the straw, nor do anything to him, for he is your son, your only begotten Son. I now know that you are a man who fears God, because you have not spared your son, even your only son, for my sake.

22:13 At this time Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw behind him a ram with its horns hanging over a bush. And Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it as a burnt offering instead of the kid.

22:14 And Abraham called the name of the place Adonai Eleh. For this reason people still say to this day, "There is provision on the mountain of the Lord.

God saw his faith.

James 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered Isaac. That is, he who had received the promise, offered his only begotten son.

11:18 For of this child it had been said, "He who comes from Isaac shall be called your offspring."

11:19 He believed that God had the power to raise a man from the dead. So he was handed Isaac back to life, so to speak.

Because of Abraham's faith, God promised him the blessing of descendants, and even if he offered Isaac, God would raise Jacob even from the dead as God Himself had promised, and so he believed and followed God's path, which seemed to be an impossible task. So God, in accordance with his faith, brought his son Isaac back to life and delivered him.

There is provision on the mountain of the Lord."

Herein lies the key to deciphering the absurdity of God the Father's offering of His beloved only begotten Son Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, for His arrogant, rebellious creature, man. The wages of sin is death, and if we think of it that way, how much blood must one shed to make an offering and apology before God? That is the destiny of a person who cannot escape from sin. But God, who could not stand idly by and watch man's condition, sacrificed even His only begotten Son to accomplish salvation for His creatures. As in the parable of the shepherd who lives by using his sheep as tools to protect them from the wolves, who are the tools of his trade, by giving his own life for theirs.

God is such a loving and sincere God. He is not the one who asks for the impossible, but He is the one who opens the way of escape with trials, not the one who puts us through trials that we cannot endure. He is the One who sacrificed His beloved Son as a substitute to save our own lives and the lives of our beloved family members, for which we must be prepared.

Therefore, let us not be afraid, but let us be willing to go forward without doubt or confusion, rushing forward into God's Word and will, and considering the implementation of that will as our treasure and our means.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for today's worship. Thank you for teaching us that it is the practice of faith that is necessary for the discipline of faith and for generating perseverance so that we may become "perfect, complete, and without blemish. Please help us to master our true faith, let us grow unwavering in our faith and in our trust in God, and guide us in a fruitful week of walking closer to God. Bless our families and the people in our community. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.