

“How to Die Well”

James 2:14-26

“Living Out What Lies Within” – A Message Series in James

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I've heard it said recently that... to live well is important. Dying well?! _____ important!

James 2:18. There must be evidence of a changed life in order to go to die well and go to heaven.

Our main passage provides some specific insight... in James 2:14-26.

- V 14... In other words, intellectual assent (faith) without **evidence of a changed life** (no deeds)
- V 15... James provides an example for us...

The main point is in verse 17: Faith not accompanied by action is a D_____ faith.

- V 19... Demons believe in the sense that they acknowledge God's existence. D_____ faith.
- VV 20-25... Abraham would NOT have been considered righteous by God if they didn't obey!
 - Now, what to call that type of faith? How about D_____ faith?!
- V 26... James finishes his teaching here with a re-emphasis on his main point.

The evidence of a changed life... comes from a changed heart (Ezek 36:25-27). But how do you really know that you have a changed heart? *How can you really know without a doubt that you're going to heaven?*

- 1. Participation through the spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12:1 ff, Rom 12:1 ff)
- 2. A heart-attitude toward the written and spoken Word of God (Psa 1:1-3; 2 Tim 3:16-17)
- 3. A dynamic and intimate prayer life (Jas 5:16; Eph 6:18; Phil 4:6-7)
- 4. A willingness to suffer for the cause of Christ (1 Pet 4:13-14; Jn 16:33)
- 5. An eternal view regarding resources (Psa 24:1; Mt 25:14-30; 6:19-21; Lk 6:38)
- 6. Introduce people to Jesus and help them grow in their relationship with Him (Ac 1:8-9; Mt 28:19-20)
- 7. Be counter-cultural, no matter the cost (Dan 3; 6; Ac 6-7)
- 8. Difference between knowing *about* Jesus and knowing Him (Jn 10:14-15, 27-30; 17:3; Mt 7:22-23).

“Okay! Pastor, I'm attracted by this! What's next?” *Well, better than being repelled (2 Cor 2:15-16)!*

What's next? Ask yourself... are the above evidences a reality in your life?

- If no, a simple prayer of surrender to God would be next.
- If yes, then a simple prayer to transform you more into the image of His Son (2 Cor 3:18; Ro 8:28-30; Phil 3:20-21)!!! That's God's ultimate purpose for your life!!! And that's how you can be 100% confident that you're going to heaven.