

Summary

YES & YES - We aren't saved by actions, but we are saved for them

- Key point 1. **Faith looks like love** (James 2:14-17)
 - James makes clear that our faith is shown for what it is by our loving actions. We don't get faith by our actions, but they do demonstrate what our faith is in.
- Key point 2. **You cannot separate faith and action** (James 2:18-20)
 - Living for Jesus is not just about just believing the 'right' things, but living a life consistent with those beliefs. 'Faith and works, works and faith, fit together hand in glove'.
- Key point 3. **Faith is shown in our choices** (James 2:21-26)
 - James does not say Abraham & Rahab were made right with God by their actions – it says they were 'shown' to be right by them. Our choices reveal what we believe.

Questions:

Conversation Starter

1. If you had to choose between your beliefs (faith) and actions (works) which would you choose? And why.

Start thinking and sharing

2. What do you find most challenging about the James passage? Do you think it is in contradiction to Romans where it says we are saved by 'Faith alone'? Where do you feel God is calling you to step out more in faith at home, at work, at Springfield?

Start praying

4. Heavenly Father, we can often be overwhelmed by the pressure to conform to the world around us, or by the many needs we see, and find it hard to know how live out lives of faith. Help us by your Spirit to grow in us a desire to step out for you this week. Amen

Start doing

5. Think about one thing that you might want to start doing this week that only makes sense because of your belief in Christ?