

RSC SERMON SERIES

James

FAITH THAT WORKS

James 2:14-26 (NIV)

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

James

20 You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? 21 Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 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. 24 You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.



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 direction? ²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.



RSC SERMON SERIES

James

FAITH THAT WORKS

James 2:14 (NIV)

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?”



“What kind of faith do you have?”



Genuine followers of Jesus...

Chap 1

- **Persevere even in times of testing (vv2-18)**
- **Live in purity (vv19-21)**
- **Are obedient to the Word of God (vv22-25)**
- **Keep a tight rein on their tongue (v26)**
- **Care for the vulnerable (v27)**

Chap 2

- **Serve the needs of those in God's family (vv1-13)**
- **Accept all people without favouritism (vv1-7)**



James 2:17b

***...faith by itself, (and) if it is not accompanied by action,
(it) is (indeed) dead.***



James 2:18 (NIV)

But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”



The problem of identifying the persons referred to by the pronouns “you” and “I” is not easily resolved. Perhaps it is best to paraphrase the quotation as follows: “One person has faith; another deeds”

The Expositor’s Bible Commentary



James 2:18 (GNT)

But someone will say, “One person has faith, another has actions.”

James 2:18b (NIV)

...Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.



Deuteronomy 6:4 (NIV)

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one



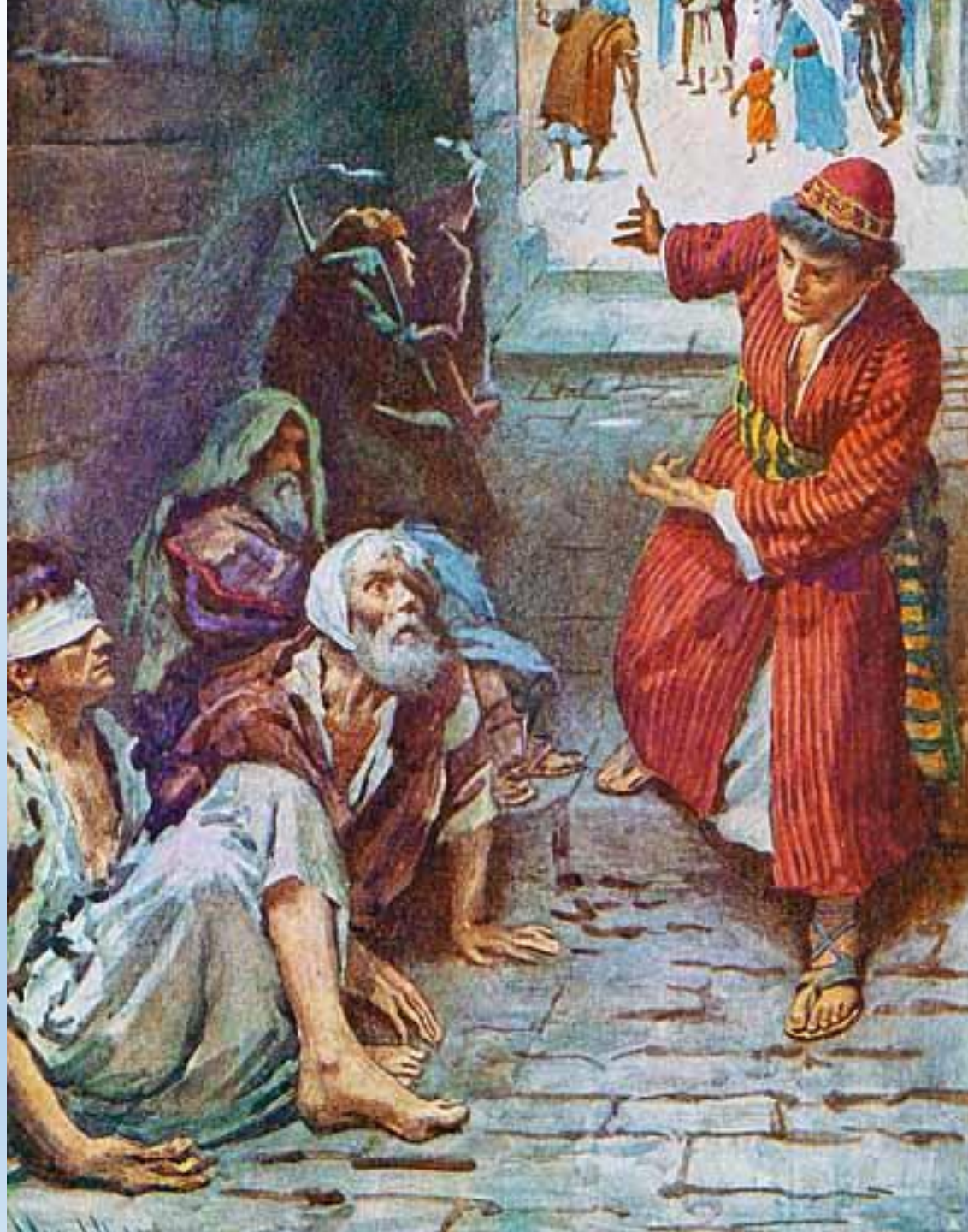
Philippians 1:6 (NIV)

...He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.



Matthew 22:1-14

Matthew 22:1-14



Matthew 22:13-14 (NIV)

13 “Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

14 “For many are invited, but few are chosen.”



Proverbs 14:12 (NIV)

***There is a way that appears to be right,
but in the end it leads to death.***



James 2:22

***...his faith and actions were working together,
and his faith was made complete by what he did.***



James 2:23 (NIV)

...“Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend.

Romans 4:23 (NIV)

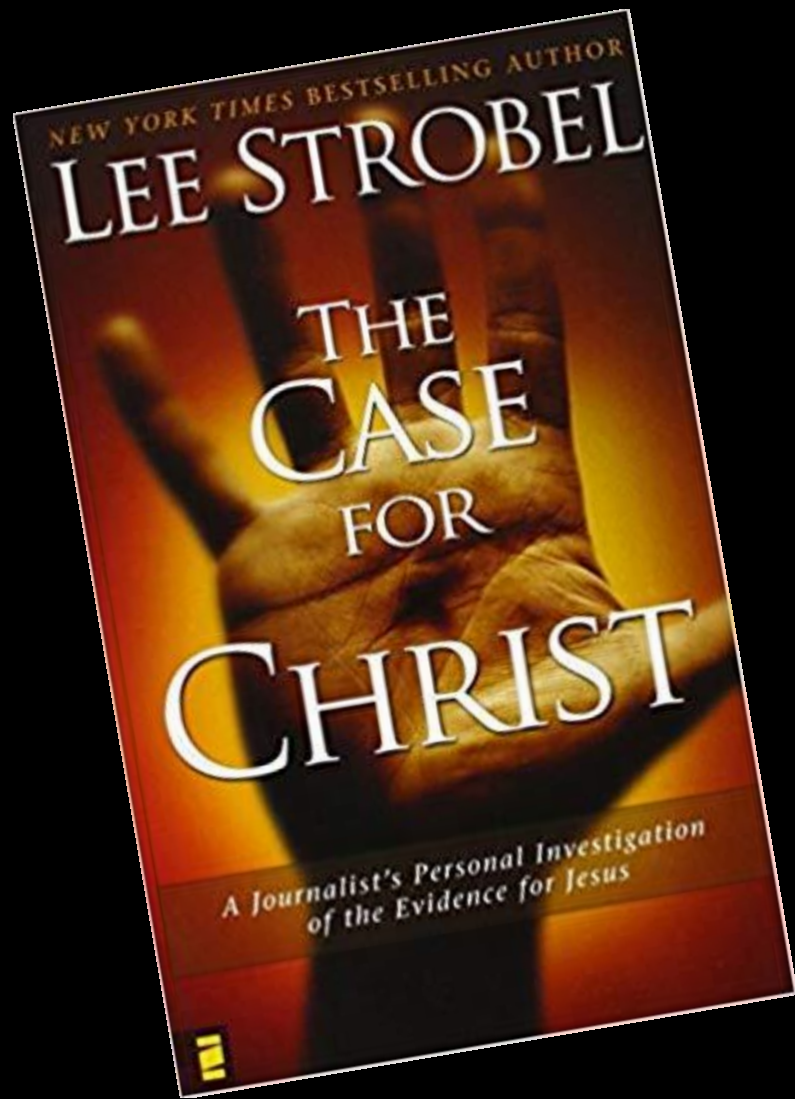
The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone,





Lee Strobel





John 1:12 (NIV)

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—



After taking that step, I knew from John 1:12 that I had crossed the threshold into a new experience. I had become something different: a child of God, forever adopted into His family through the historical, risen Jesus.

Said the apostle Paul, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come" (2 Cor. 5:17)



Sure enough, over time as I endeavoured to follow Jesus' teachings and open myself to His transforming power, my priorities, my values and my character were (and continue to be) gradually changed. Increasingly I want Jesus' motives and perspective to be my own. To paraphrase Martin Luther King Jr., I may not yet be the man I should be or the man, with Christ's help, I someday will be – but thank God I'm not the man I used to be!

James

James 2:26 (NIV)

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

