



The Ride after the Rescue

The Ride after the Rescue // Part 2

Introduction:

This week Matt continues a new series called '**The Ride After the Rescue**' with a message titled **Part 2**. What happens in life after you are saved, after you are rescued? What does God want for your life and how do you get there? Now what?

This week Matt is looking at the book of James and how we can understand the relationship between faith and works. If we're saved by faith alone, what value to your life are works? Why are works necessary? What part does faith play in your life? What part does work play in your life?

Questions:

1. How did Matt define **faith**, and what did he say that James (and Jesus) means by **works**? Are you looking for a list of works (actions) you need in your life? Why are works important, and how could your works (deeds) demonstrate your faith and love for God? **James 2:14-26**
2. Did you fail to love God and to love people **perfectly** this past week? Do you feel like you need to add works to your faith to validate your faith? What if even an imperfectly executed (but true) faith leads to an ongoing love for God and an ongoing love for others?
3. Would you agree that **faith without works is useless**? What did Matt mean when he said that God works in two ways, through the one who has been blessed and the one that is in need? Do you live an open handed life or are you 'spiritually constipated'? **James 2:15-16; Matthew 25:40-43**

4. How can you know that **faith without works can not save you**? How does the argument from James 2:17-25 prove James' point? How can you know if you have correct doctrine, or head knowledge but do not have saving faith? What should be present to demonstrate your faith? **James 2:17-25**
5. Why is it true that **faith alone saves you, but not faith that is alone**? How do Abraham and Rahab both provide evidence of faith in action that isn't alone? Are they surprising choices to be mentioned together as examples of people that took a step of faith?
6. Do you believe that **faith without works is ineffective**? What if faith is meant to lead you into trusting God, obeying God and loving God in such a way that it flows out into loving other people?
7. Is it a strong statement that **faith without works is dead**? Why does James say it twice in this passage, that it's not just outwardly inoperative, it's inwardly dead? Do you agree that faith without works isn't faith? Do you agree that without fruit (works) faith is dead? Does your desire lead to discipline that leads to delight in the Lord?

Key takeaway: What are the works of the believer? Simply to know Jesus, and to love Jesus, and to pursue Him, and let Him transform your life. There is no list. The works that faith creates is a love for God that leads to a love for others. Is Jesus transforming your life? Are you becoming more and more like Him in the way that you think, and talk, and act and react towards the people around you?

Summary:

- Faith trusts and obeys God. Works means - a life of loving God and loving others
- true faith leads to an ongoing love for God and an ongoing love for others.
- Faith without works is useless, do you live an open handed life, or are you Spiritually constipated?
- Faith without works can not save you, what demonstrates your faith? Do you have correct doctrine but no saving faith?

- Faith alone saves us, but not faith that is alone. How do Abraham and Rahab both provide evidence of faith in action?
- Faith without works is ineffective. Faith is meant to lead us into loving God and obeying God in a way that flows into loving others
- Faith without works is dead, not just outwardly inoperative. Faith without works isn't faith.