

Discussion Questions for “The Fruit of Faith”
James 2:14-26, Pastor Trey Sonnenberg, Weekend of August 16, 2026

Outline

Headline: Faith by itself is useless—it is dead (vs. 17, 24, 26)

Supporting Evidence:

1. Faith with no compassion (empty words - v. 15-16)
2. Faith with no worship (empty hearts - v. 18-19)
3. Faith with no maturity (empty lives - v. 20-26)

Three Lenses for Evaluation:

- Direction, not perfection. *Is my life increasingly aligning with the heart of Jesus?*
 - Patterns, not isolated moments. *When I look beyond my best and worst, what do I see?*
 - Desires, not just words. *Do I genuinely want to follow Jesus?*
- *What’s my direction? What’s my pattern? What’s my desire?

Questions

1. When you hear someone described as a person of “strong faith,” what qualities or characteristics normally come to mind?
What do you think James would add to that description?
2. Looking at James 2:14–17. Why do you think James chooses the example of seeing a brother or sister without adequate clothing or food?
What does our response to another person's need reveal about what's happening in our own hearts?
3. James says, “Even the demons believe—and shudder!” (v. 19). What is the difference between knowing true things about God and actually having faith in God?
What must take place for biblical truth to move from something we simply know to something that produces worship?
4. Compare James 2:24 with Galatians 2:16. Why do these statements initially seem contradictory?
Why is it important for Christians to hold onto both truths—that works cannot save us and that saving faith will produce works?
5. Abraham and Rahab are remarkably different people, yet James holds both up as examples of living faith. How do their stories differ? What do their stories have in common?
According to James 2:22, how can acting in obedience actually strengthen or mature our faith?
6. Why can examining the “fruit” of our lives be spiritually dangerous in two opposite directions—being too hard on ourselves or being too easy on ourselves?
How might looking at our direction, patterns, and desires, rather than demanding perfection or pointing to isolated good works, lead to a wiser assessment?
7. Where do you presently see evidence that Christ is changing you—and where do you most desire to see Him continue that work?
Consider the areas James raises—compassion, worship, and maturity—or another area such as forgiveness, purity, generosity, speech, or relationships. What would one next step of faith-filled obedience look like?