

**GOD'S "HOW-TO" MANUAL**  
**# 5 - How to Express Genuine Faith**  
**James 2:14-26**

Dr. Danny Davis/ Mount Hermon Baptist Church/ July 26, 2009

*James discusses 3 forms of faith—two artificial and one authentic:*

**1. Dead Faith. 2:14-17**

Dead faith is “faith” at an intellectual and verbal level only. It merely knows the facts and gives verbal assent to them.

v. 14 - “*claims*” - People with dead “faith” substitute words for deeds.

v. 15 – “*says...(but) does nothing*” - Real faith is more than just words. Any profession of faith that does not result in a changed life and good works is a false profession.

Real faith in Christ brings new life. And where there is life there also must be growth and fruit.

**2. Demon Faith. 2:18-19**

v. 19 – “*you believe that there is one God...*” - Demon “faith” can be doctrinally sound (to a point).

Demons believe in the existence of God, the deity of Jesus Christ, and the existence of Hell. They also recognize Jesus Christ as the ultimate Judge and they acknowledge the power of His Word.

v. 19 – “*believe...and shudder (tremble)*” - Demon-like faith is a “faith” that both knows and gives verbal assent to the facts. But it also has been stirred emotionally. Yet, there is no real evidence of life change.

Authentic, saving faith is far more than just an intellectual exercise. And it is much more than a mere emotional experience.

**3. Dynamic Faith. 2:20-26**

Dynamic faith is genuine, saving faith. It is a “complete” faith, impacting the whole person. It is evidenced by spiritual fruit and good works. Ephesians 2:8-10.

- The example of Abraham

By faith, Abraham was justified before God and his righteousness was declared.

By works, Abraham was justified before men and his righteousness was demonstrated.

- The example of Rahab

Rahab went beyond what she knew and what she felt. She responded decisively with her will and did something to actively demonstrate what she believed.