

February 14, 2010
SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
Of Princeton, New Jersey

James 3: 18: 18: And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace
of them that make peace.

MEETING LOCATION

Rocky Hill Firehouse, 2nd floor
150 Washington Street, Rocky Hill, NJ 08553

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday	10:00 AM	Bible Class
	11:00 AM	Morning Service
Thursday	7:00 PM	Mid-week Service

WEB ADDRESSES

Be sure to bookmark our website for daily articles, sermon
notes and audio messages

www.freegracemedia.com
www.sermonaudio.com/sgbcnpj
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MAILING ADDRESS

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Be sure to bookmark our website for daily articles, sermon
notes and audio messages
www.freegracemedia.com

Reminders

Sunday, February 28: I am preaching in PA at 4pm.
Friday, March 5: Bible study in our home at 7pm for
those 18 and under.

Saturday, March 12: Todd Nibert is preaching in PA.

FAITH JUSTIFIED BY WORKS

James 2: 14-25

Faith Without Works is Not Saving Faith

James 2: 14-17

James has written about works of faith from the beginning of the epistle, such as: patiently enduring trial (James 1: 4), asking God in faith (James 1: 5), rejoicing in God's providence for us (James 1: 9), laying apart the old man and receiving the word with meekness (James 1: 19-21), visiting the needy and keeping ourselves from the spots of this world (James 1: 27), not showing a respect of persons (James 2: 1.) The believer is not a hearer of this word only, but is alive with this working of spiritual life within us. Where this life is absent, it will not profit the one who claims to believe any more than the needy were profited in James' illustration (James 2: 15-, 16)

Hereby Perceive We

James 2: 15, 16

Believer, God did not merely say to you, depart in peace, he gave his only begotten Son. The Faithful One did not merely say he believed the Father and loved his brethren, but when the fullness of time was come the righteousness of his faith was manifest through his work: he counted it all joy, visiting his helpless children in our affliction; he endured the trial of his faith unto death, even the death of the cross; he asked his Father in perfect faith; he sanctified himself, sanctifying his brethren through the truth; he clothed his people in his righteousness, gave us life in him and continues to feed us with the Bread of life. Had God our Savior merely promised and not worked the work, it would have been no profit in declaring before the world that God is righteous and faithful. And it would have been, no profit in the salvation of his elect (1 John 3:16.) Even so faith which we profess, if it has not works, is dead, being alone. It profits neither the one who claims to believe nor anyone else.

Two Objections Answered

James 2: 18-20

Someone might object, saying, "Grace is not always manifested in the same way. For instance, you excel in faith and I excel in works." But faith is never exclusive of works. The believer is not in the business of boasting of our works of faith. But wherever faith is, a life of commitment to Christ will be manifest. Faith is alive and living things grow and move and manifest that they are alive (James 2: 26.) There can be works where there is no faith, but it is impossible to have faith without works (Matthew 7: 17.) Then someone might object, saying, "Well, I may not have works but I still believe God." You are no better than devils. The devils believe there is one God. The devils believe, and tremble. But devils have no works of faith, no labor of love, and no patience of hope. Such vain objections, defending such vain faith, are the product of a vain man.

Faith is Justified as Genuine by Works

James 2: 21-26

Neither Abraham nor Rahab were justified legally in the court of heaven before God by their works. True faith believes we were justified by God in Christ. But by Abraham and Rahab's works their faith was proven to be genuine, God-given faith. The scripture was fulfilled, that is, it was manifest by Abraham's works that all along he really did believe God, the righteousness of God had truly been imputed to him long before, and all along he truly was the Friend of God. Likewise Rahab received the spies and sent them out another way though she could have suffered greatly for doing so. See then how faith is in word and deed, and not in word only?

Works of Faith

James 2: 26; Genesis 22: 1-19; Joshua 2: 1-24; 6:25

Both these examples are works under the most severe trials wherein the believer shows that they believe that only God is able to save. These are not examples which imply that works of faith are works of morality. In fact, Abraham is commended for killing his son in his heart as an offering to God, while Rahab the harlot lied to a king in order to protect the spies and send them out another way. Do not misunderstand. The believer will conduct himself in a manner becoming the gospel. But rather, in both examples the works of faith which James has spoken of throughout this epistle are set forth: endurance unto the end even when the trial appears unconquerable, laying apart the old man which would have us reason that it is useless to continue, receiving the word of God with meekness, not only hearing it but continuing in the word of promise, all the while keeping ourselves separated from this world unto God who is able to save. (Hebrews 11: 18, 19.) Where God's grace is active this evidence of life will exist. Faith without these works is as dead as the body without breath.

