

Discussion Questions:

Since faith is demonstrated by works, what are three ways your faith is demonstrated by your speech?

What 2 specific ways can you show love to a brother or sister in Christ this week, thereby demonstrating the genuineness of your faith?

How does your faith affect your thought life?

Would your co-workers or neighbors know you are a Christian by observing your life? If so, what are 2 reasons they would think so?

How would you describe your decision-making process when you're facing a difficult situation? In what way does your faith in Christ affect that decision?

Fooled by Faith, pt.2

James 2:21-26

We all need role models—men and women who put flesh and bone to biblical principles. As James continues his discussion on genuine, living faith, he provides us with two role models who are very different from one another. The first is a patriarch who exemplifies living faith over the long haul; the second is a prostitute who embodies living faith in a moment.

Living faith in the life of a patriarch (21-24).

Every Jewish man would have been familiar with the story of Abraham—the father of the Jewish nation. He was the epitome of faith in God. However, his faith was never in operation alone; his faith was consistently demonstrated through his works. Yes, he believed God's promise of a son, but it wasn't until he was willing to offer that son on an altar that the genuineness of his faith was truly manifested.

Living faith in the life of a prostitute (25-26).

It would be easy to write off Abraham's example as impossible. "I could never be like Abraham...he was a friend of God." The second example was a woman who is still known first for her past occupation—Rahab the prostitute. She was no model of perfection, but she was a model of faith. How do we know she was a model of faith? Because her life and her actions demonstrated it.