

## Redeemed to Work

**Read:** James 2:14-26

**Main idea:** Faith in our hearts is evident in the fruit of our lives and is based on God's saving work in Jesus Christ.

**Key Verses:** "So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works." **(2:17-18 ESV)**

### Key Principles:

- Not only did God create us for work, but He also redeemed us to work for Him, His mission and His glory.
- Faith in God is not merely an intellectual decision or an emotional response, but it also involves a willful obedience.
- Understanding that your work is not only about you but also about God's glory, the benefit of believers and the eternal souls of the lost is an evidence of salvation.
- There is a stark contrast between genuine faith that leads to work and professed faith without work that is totally useless.
- We must be sure to view our work as a fruit of our salvation and not a means to obtain salvation because that is legalism and is contrary to the gospel.
- When we trust God, we will follow Him sacrificially and we will be obedient to His commands which will be evident in the fruit of our lives (our work).

### Discussion:

1. Is it unloving to question whether someone has genuine biblical faith? Is it unloving to see counterfeit faith and say nothing to the person?
2. How would you define biblical faith to an unbeliever? Does that type of faith affect the way you live and work?
3. Why is it so easy to blur the line between doing a good work as a means to salvation and doing a good work as evidence of salvation? What is the difference?
4. What's the difference between dead faith and living faith? What's the difference between works that God approves and works that are an offense to Him?
5. What passage of Scripture would you point someone to in order to show them the kind of fruit God expects from His people?
6. Is your faith dead or living? Is your faith about intellectual belief in God or Christ? Or is your faith alive, penetrating, and transforming every part of who you are?

### Prayer:

- Pray that we would remember that we are saved by God's grace through faith.
- Pray:
  - That we would understand that our lives have been redeemed for God's purpose.
  - That we would desire to see believers thrive in their Christian walk and ministry.
  - That we would meet physical and spiritual needs of the unbelievers around us.

**Redeemed to Work**  
James 2:14-26

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| <b>I.</b>   | <b>Faith is more than what you <u>say</u>.</b>           | <b>2:14-16</b> |
| 1.          | Words cannot <u>save</u> you.                            | 2:14           |
| 2.          | Words cannot <u>clothe</u> <u>others</u> .               | 2:15-16        |
| 3.          | Words cannot <u>feed</u> <u>others</u> .                 | 2:15-16        |
| <b>II.</b>  | <b>Faith is more than what you <u>do</u>.</b>            | <b>2:17-18</b> |
| 1.          | <u>Faith</u> without <u>works</u> is dead.               | 2:17           |
| 2.          | <u>Works</u> without <u>faith</u> is dead.               | 2:18           |
| <b>III.</b> | <b>Faith is more than what you <u>know</u>.</b>          | <b>2:19-20</b> |
| 1.          | <u>Belief</u> alone will not <u>save</u> you.            | 2:19           |
| 2.          | <u>You</u> must <u>act</u> on your belief.               | 2:20           |
| <b>IV.</b>  | <b>Faith leads to <u>trust</u> and <u>obedience</u>.</b> | <b>2:21-26</b> |
| 1.          | <u>Abraham</u> was shown to have <u>faith</u> .          | 2:21-23        |
| 2.          | <u>Rahab</u> was justified by <u>works</u> .             | 2:24-26        |

NEXT WEEK:  
**Gifted for Work**  
Romans 12:3-8