

FAITH & DEEDS

LESSON 4: JAMES ON BUSINESS

CORPORATE SITUATION ROOM

You have worked at your company for over 15 years, and with the same production team for over 5 years. You get along well with everyone on your team, which is why you love your job. They're like a family to you because of how everyone watches out for each other.

As a Christian, you are very involved at church and believe that everyone should know Jesus. One Sunday you are talking with your Sunday school leader and he asks whether your team members are Christians. Embarrassed, you reply that you don't even know for sure. You suspect that some of them might be. After all, they are good people.

- Q.** In this example, what is the disconnect between what we are commanded to do as Christians vs. what we believe?
- Q.** Is being a good person around your coworkers enough? What scriptures come to mind about what God expects of our behavior?

JAMES 2:14-26

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

²⁰ You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? ²¹ Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. ²⁴ You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

²⁵ In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? ²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Discuss how our faith produces action and how opinions turn into beliefs that mature into convictions.

OPINIONS → BELIEFS → CONVICTIONS

- Q.** Contrast these and discuss the progression.
- Q.** At what point in this progression do our actions align with our beliefs?
- Q.** What are the characteristics of a Christian businessman who is convicted in their faith? Describe their behavior at work.

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v. 14-17 As a Christian businessman what can happen when our actions don't align with our beliefs?

Give some examples of what this would look like in your work place.

v. 18-19 In your own words how would your co-workers describe your beliefs, convictions?

What are some examples of how you act differently at work from your pre-Christian friends?

v. 20-24 How did Abraham show his convictions for his faith? Where did he fail?

v. 25 What did Rahab do and why is that profound based on what she likely believed?

v. 26 What are some questions we must ask ourselves to properly diagnose the health of our faith?

What are the implications of Jesus' commands in our lives if we truly believe? The Great Commission?

Explain one thing you would like to change in your behavior at work in light of this passage.