

POP QUIZ!

$$A^2 + B^2 = C^2$$

What Does This Mean?

**Put the nut
in the trunk.**



FAITH AT WORK

A STUDY OF JAMES

JAMES 2:26



Faith and Proof?
James 2:14-26

Keep In Mind

- James is difficult!
 - Is there an outline/structure? Or is it a collection of random thoughts?
 - Greatly affects interpretation!
- No punctuation in the original

My Presuppositions

- James is cohesive and reasoned
 - Faith: 15/16x in Chaps. 1 & 2
- *Context is Key!*
 - Immediate context first
 - How it relates to Chapter 1

My Conclusion

- James is not telling us how we can know if we are really saved or not
- James is giving us a kick in the pants

Immediate Context

- So speak and so act... (12)
- Judgment will be merciless... (13)
- What use is it if someone says he has faith but has no works? (14)
 - Save (14) – from judgment (13)

Do Something

- Fulfill – *carry to its intended goal* (8)
– You are doing well
- So speak and so act [do] (12)
- One who has shown [done] no mercy (13)

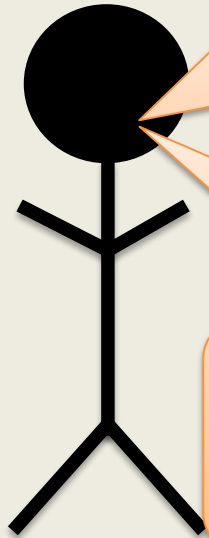
Do Something

- Receive the word (1:21)
- Prove yourselves doers of the word (1:22)
- Some hearers but not doers (1:23)
- The effectual doer is blessed (1:25)

Real-life Illustration

Someone

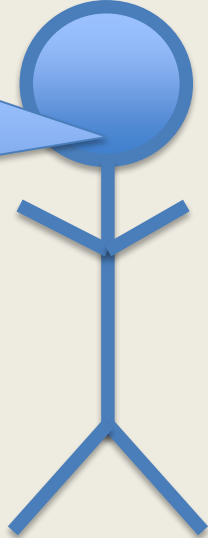
Brother/Sister



"I have
faith."

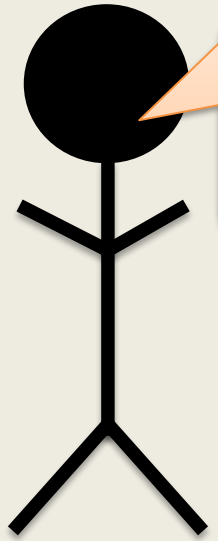
"Go in peace, be
warmed and filled."

"I'm cold
and hungry."



Real-life Illustration

Someone

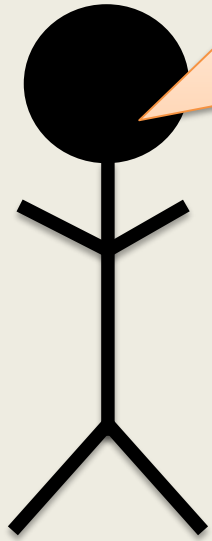


“I have
faith.”

Matt. 6:25-34 -
“do not be worried
about your life, as to
what you will eat ...; nor
for your body, as to what
you will put on”

Real-life Illustration

Someone



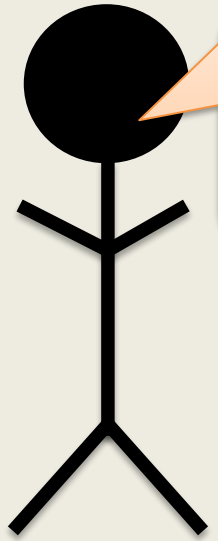
“I have
faith.”

Matt. 6:25-34 -

“Is not life more than
food, and the body
more than clothing?”

Real-life Illustration

Someone

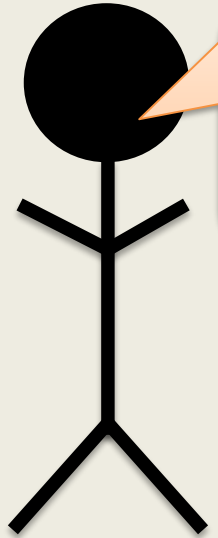


“I have
faith.”

Matt. 6:25-34 -
“But seek first His
kingdom and His
righteousness, and
all these things will
be added to you.”

Real-life Illustration

Someone



“I have
faith.”

Someone has no works: he doesn't speak and act as one who will be judged by the perfect law of liberty (1 John 3:17-18)

1: “Go in peace,
be warmed
and be filled”

2: Give them
what is necessary
for their body

- Which one is *doing* mercy? (13)
- Which one is so acting/doing? (12)
- Which one is loving the neighbor? (8)

1: “Go in peace,
be warmed
and be filled”

2: Give them
what is necessary
for their body

- Which one is in line with pure religion? (1:27)
- Which one is being an effectual doer of the law of liberty? (1:25)

1: “Go in peace,
be warmed
and be filled”

2: Give them
what is necessary
for their body

- Which one requires perseverance?
(1:12)
- Which one *proves* faith? (1:3)

Prove Faith?

- The testing of your faith (1:3)
 - Proving: *testing to reveal the true nature of a thing*
 - Trials reveal the true nature of our faith (cf. 1:12; 2:22-23)

Dead Faith? (17)

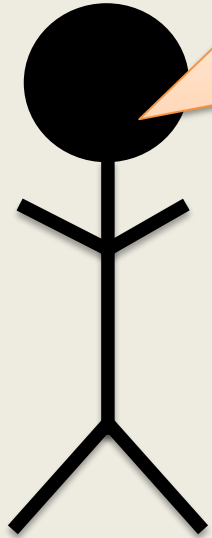
- Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself
 - *Dead* = not real, not true, false, fake, non-existent?
 - *Dead faith* = not born again?

Dead Faith? (17)

- Dead || no use (14, 16-17)
 - Use – *profit, benefit, advantage*
 - 1 Cor. 15:32
 - *Dead* – no use to anyone, no help
 - Dead faith doesn't do mercy

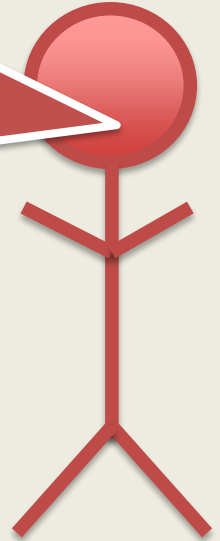
Real-life Illustration

Someone



“I have
faith.”

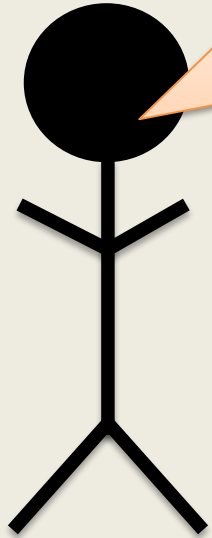
James



“You have
faith and I
have works.”

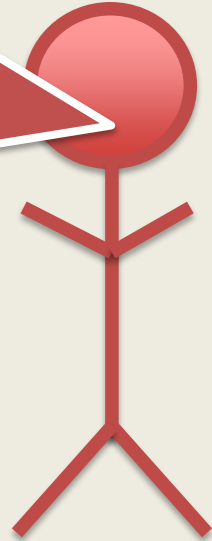
Real-life Illustration

Someone



"I have
faith."

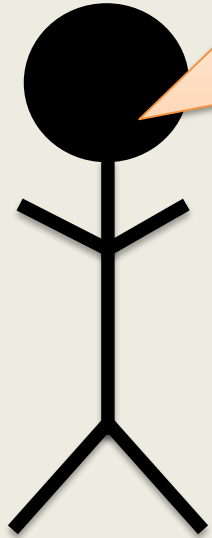
James



"Show me
your faith
without the
works..."

Real-life Illustration

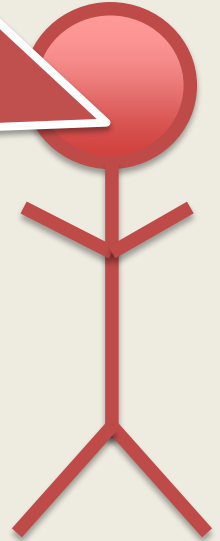
Someone



"I have faith."

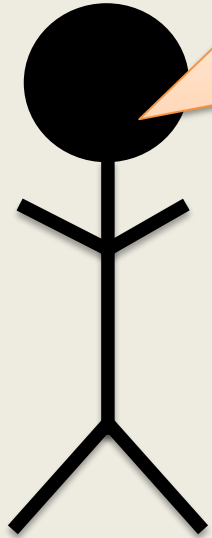
"You believe that God is one. So do the demons."

James



Real-life Illustration

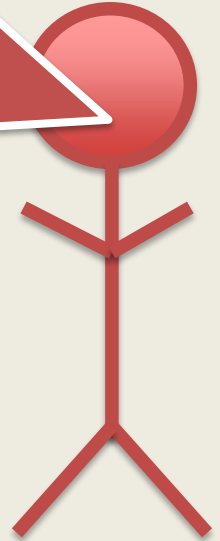
Someone



"I have
faith."

"...You foolish
fellow ... faith
without works
is useless."

James



Useless Faith? (20)

- Useless – *argos* – *not at work*, inactive, lazy, idle (by choice)
 - Matt. 20:1-16; 1 Tim. 5:13; Titus 1:10-16; 2 Pet. 1:5-11
 - This faith is **lazy**, not non-existent

Justified by Works? (21)

- Justified – to make right, to vindicate, to hold guiltless, to be acquitted, to stand approved, to be accepted
 - Context: *proving* of your faith (1:3)
 - Produces *endurance*, not *resolve*

Justified by Works? (21)

- In Gen. 15:6, Abraham believed God but his faith was weak (15:8)
- After many years (and a failure), Isaac was finally born (Gen. 21:1-8)

Justified by Works? (21)

- The test in Gen. 22:1-19
 - Abraham's faith was not idle
 - He endured the test, and God approved him and blessed him
 - *Now I know that you fear God (15)*

Faith was Perfected? (22)

- As a result of the works, faith was perfected
 - Abraham's faith was tested (1:2-3)
 - Endurance had its perfect result (4)

Faith was Perfected? (22)

- As a result of the works, faith was perfected
 - Perfected – *carried to its intended goal; brought to maturity* (2:8; 1:4)

Faith was Perfected? (22)

- As a result of the works, faith was perfected
 - The test both proved and strengthened his faith (see Heb. 11:17-19)

Scripture was Fulfilled? (23)

- Fulfilled – *pleroo* – fill up, make full, bring to an end, to consummate, to realize, to accomplish
 - The full significance of Gen. 15:6 was realized in Gen. 22

So What?

- The kick in the pants:
 - Prove yourselves doers of the word (1:22)
 - Abide by the perfect law of liberty; be effectual doers (1:25)

So What?

- You are doing well if you love your neighbor as yourself (2:8)
- So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty (2:12)

So What?

- If your faith is lazy, get busy!
 - 2 Pet. 1:5-11 – add to your faith...
- If your faith is weak, trust and obey
 - Let endurance have its perfect result