

USELESS FAITH

James 2:14-17

Quiz on the Nature of Saving Faith		
1. Is saving faith simply agreeing/assenting to gospel truths?	yes	no
2. Does faith save (i.e. cause salvation)?	yes	no
3. If you "believe" at one point, are you saved eternally (even if you stop believing)?	yes	no
4. Does saving faith always produce good works?	yes	no

The structure of 2:14 - 17

- What _____ is it? (14a)
 - It can't _____ the _____ (14b) "can that faith save him?"

"that faith" – anaphoric use (refers back)

- It won't _____ the _____ (15 – 16a) "Go in peace, be warmed and filled."

poverty + _____ = _____

- What _____ is that? (16b)

*So faith that _____ in itself is _____!

Three Questions

- What is the difference between saving faith and useless faith?

Useless Faith	Saving Faith
_____ agrees	also _____
looks to _____	looks to _____
is _____	_____
is _____	is _____

- What are some signs of useless faith?

James 1 – 2

- It _____ under _____ – saving faith is _____
- It _____ rather than _____ – saving faith is _____
- It sends _____ away – saving faith is _____

- What if I realize my faith is useless?

- _____!
- _____ -
- Look to _____ – Romans 4:16 – 25

"Biblical faith mirrors God, the object of that faith. In everyday life, we generally have different kind of faith in different people, according to the nature of the relationship. We have a certain kind of faith in a spouse, another kind in a doctor, and a different source in relation to a pastor or a friend. By telling us who God is, the Bible defines what kind of faith we must place in Him: He is the God who justifies the ungodly (Romans 4:5), who creates out of nothing (4:17), and who raised Jesus from the dead (4:24). Utterly all-powerful, He wields the power to bring righteousness where there was none, creation where there was none, and life where there was none. That's the God we believe in."

Simon Gathercole