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*Growing a Faith that Works – A Series in James – Week 6*

## PUT YOUR FAITH TO WORK & YOU WILL GROW

*James 2:14-26*

By Rod MacIlvaine

**Introduction:** Followers of Jesus are *transformed* by God to pursue a *transcendent* purpose in the world. We're called to perform good works in Jesus' name (Jn. 14:12; Eph. 2:10). By reading the gospels, we discover what some of those good works are, and by meditating on Jesus' life, we discover the *manner* in which we serve. We serve full of grace and truth. Armed with that perspective, we're called to follow Jesus' example. And thankfully, we have His power to make it happen: Through His Spirit, we've been rendered a *new creation*, capable of doing kingdom work (2 Cor. 5:17). And through his Spirit, we've been rendered a "*masterpiece*" through which God pours forth good works (Eph. 2:10). There can be no higher privilege: serving The Father, in the name of the Son, through the Spirit's power. However, tragically, some followers of Jesus neglect, or willingly reject, this calling. To this group, James addresses his hard-hitting words in 2:14-26. While James doesn't tell us exactly why they've neglected putting their faith to work, the context suggests the problem was trials. For some, the pain of their trials, caused them to rebuff their purpose. James challenges them to shift gears and put their faith to work with the promise that, if they do, they will grow.

### **First Things First**

*James 2:14*

**1<sup>st</sup> problem** – Faith *without* works makes no tangible impact

*James 2:14-17*

**2<sup>nd</sup> problem** – Faith *without* works is no better than the faith of demons.

*James 2:18-20*

**A way forward**

*James 2:21-26*

**Main Idea**

**Takeaways**