

James 2:20

But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

You've probably heard the phrase "Faith without works is dead." If you ever wondered where that came from, here it is in the book of James.

But what does that really mean? It would be like going to collage for eight years so that you could be a doctor. You would study and read all you can about being a doctor and how to perform surgeries and diagnose sickness and all. You then graduate and you are a licensed doctor. So now you just sit there and dream about all the things you can do and all the people you can help with this new found knowledge and skill that you have. But you don't go beyond that, you keep all the great knowledge that you have all to yourself and never ever help one person out.

You have made all those years of late night studying and reading and money all gone to waste. No one will ever get better because you have not put what you learned or was told into practice.

But as a Christian, we are the same way, you can read the bible all you want, two or three times every year. You can go to church every day and listen to teaching. You can read all the books that teach the bible and listen to all the teachings you want, but if you don't put what you read into practice, you have no faith in what God's word says.

† **Romans 10:17** *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

† **2 Corinthians 1:23-24 (NLT)** *Now I call upon God as my witness that I am telling the truth. The reason I didn't return to Corinth was to spare you from a severe rebuke. But that does not mean we want to dominate you by telling you how to put your faith into practice. We want to work together with you so you will be full of joy, for it is by your own faith that you stand firm.*