

**March 13, 2021**

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Saturday

**Working verses Works  
by Ed Cunningham**

*James 2:14-26* <sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup> So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. <sup>18</sup> But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith. <sup>19</sup> You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder. <sup>20</sup> Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith apart from works is barren? <sup>21</sup> Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup> You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works. <sup>23</sup> Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” and he was called the friend of God. <sup>24</sup> You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. <sup>25</sup> Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road? <sup>26</sup> For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

The call to action in the Christian life can be confusing. Some work in ordained ministry. Some have full time work in missions. Some participate in Church and mission activities on a regular basis as time permits. These professions and activities are works that show faith, but I think we are missing the point of this passage if we leave it there. Faith worth having is intertwined with all parts of life. There is no separate time to plan for, and perform, works to demonstrate our faith. What if we made sure that each time we are involved in a business meeting, an employee performance review, or a difficult project that we acted in a way to demonstrate our faith?

With a little reflection, we might all have opportunity for improvement here. But those are just examples of opportunities at work. What about every other aspect of our lives? Do I demonstrate my faith by how I act in a traffic jam, when shopping in a crowded store, while discussing politics? In this Lenten season, join me in reflecting on how we can change works as a noun into working as a verb. Not keeping track of the things we have done, or plan to make time for, but being open and mindful of all the ways we can demonstrate our faith as we participate in life.

*Prayer: Father in heaven, please open our eyes to the many opportunities that you present us every day to act on our faith. Amen.*



let the word of Christ dwell in you richly  
Colossians 3:16

*Artwork by Karen Constan*