

BE SWIFT TO HEAR (Part 3)

Text: James 2:14-26 Date: July 31, 2016

INTRODUCTION

- ❖ “A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing is worth nothing.”
– Martin Luther
- ❖ In James 1:19 we are called to endure trials in three ways—“*be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.*”
- ❖ Today we will continue looking at what it means to be “*swift to hear.*”
- ❖ In James 1:22-2:26, James exhorts us to apply the command “*Be swift to hear*” in 3 ways, (1) We hear by practicing the word of truth (2) We hear by not showing favoritism (3) We hear by living out the “Law of Genuine Belief.”
- ❖ Today we will cover point #3, We hear by living out the “Law of Genuine Belief” (v. 2:14-26).

MAIN POINTS

1. Faith (Genuine Belief) without works cannot “save” (v. 2:14-17)
 - A. Illustration: (*What good is it?*) (vv. 15–16)
 - B. Conclusion of illustration: *faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead* (v. 17)
2. Faith can only be shown by deeds (v. 2:18-19)
 - A. Says the Imaginary objector: *faith and deeds are separable* (v. 18a)
 - B. Says James: *faith can only be shown by deeds* (vv. 18b–19)
3. Faith without works is useless (v. 2:20-26)
 - A. Abraham was considered righteous by a deed (v. 21)
 - B. (Explanation of Abraham’s faith and deeds [vv. 22–23])
 - C. So: justification requires faith and works (v. 24)
 - D. Rahab also was considered righteous by a deed (v. 25)
 - E. *Faith without deeds is useless* (v. 26)