



The Heart of the Matter

WORD SERIES WITH PS SIMON SAY



**THE FAITH
THAT
TRULY
WORKS
FOR YOU!**

JAMES 2: 14-26



14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

18 But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder.

JAMES 2:14-26

20 You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? 21 Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. 24 You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.

25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? 26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.



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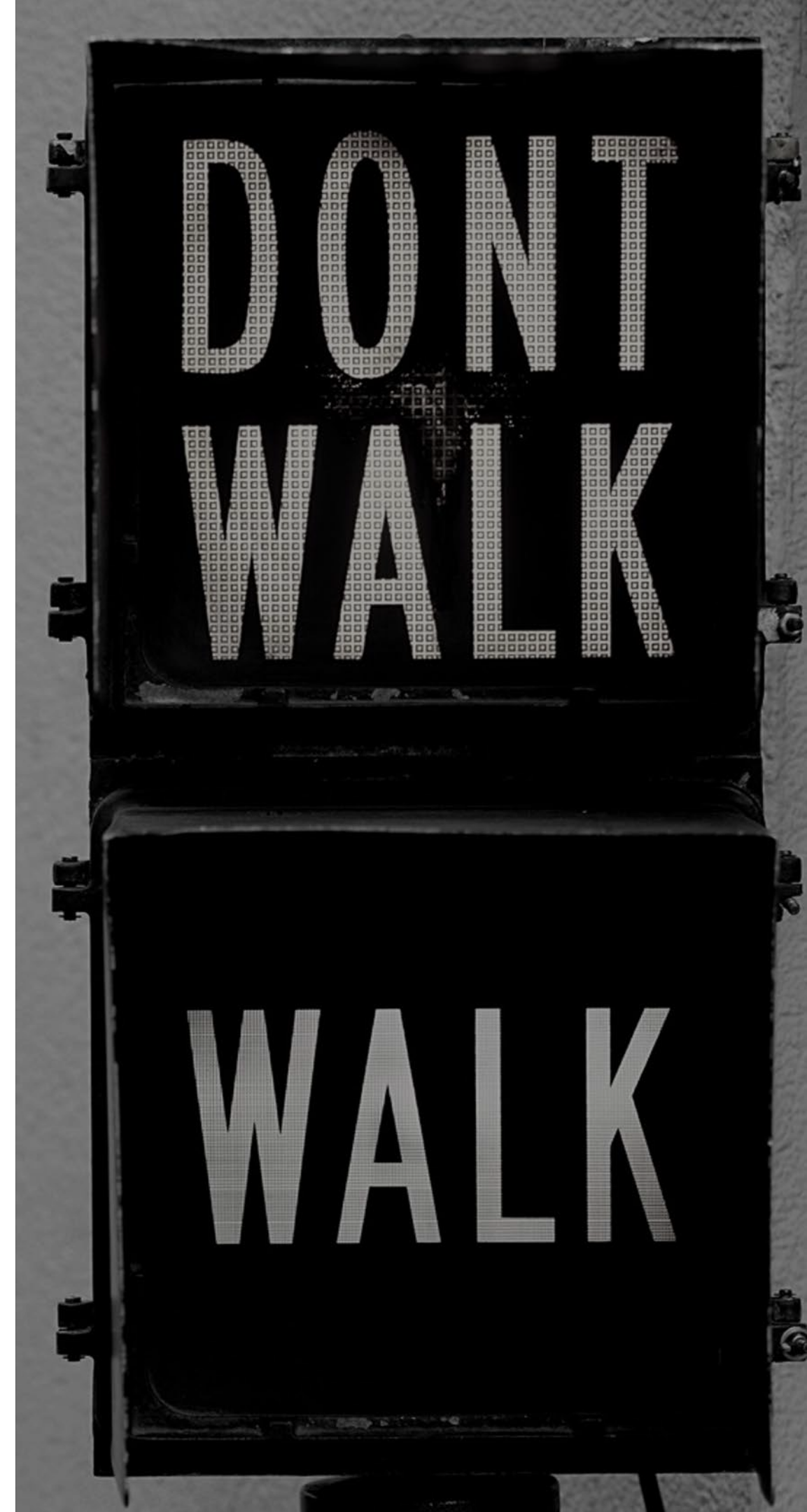
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Do the theologies of James and Paul contradict?

To deal with this 'contradiction', consider these three presuppositions:

- 1) God's Word does not contradict;
- 2) God's Word is to be understood and interpreted in its context;
- 3) James and Paul were referring to 2 different aspects of faith:
 - James about the Fruit of justification (Jas 2:14-26);
 - Paul, about the Root of justification (Rom 1:18-3:20; 3:21-26, 28; 5:1).



3 TRUTHS REGARDING FAITH IN James 2:14-26



(1)
**TRUE FAITH
SAVES**
(V14-17)



(2)
**TRUE FAITH IS
SPIRITUAL**
(V18-19)



(3)
**TRUE FAITH IS
NEVER STATIC**
(V20-26)



TRUE FAITH SAVES

JAMES 2:14-17

- Professed faith: 'a man claims to have faith.'
- Professed faith: 'mouthy' or 'wordy', does not produce results and so is useless.
- Professors of faith think their words are enough. No Action, Talk Only (NATO).
- Professors of faith do not unite with Christ and submit to authority of Holy Spirit.
- Those who professed faith only cannot be saved (James 2:14; Mt 7:21).

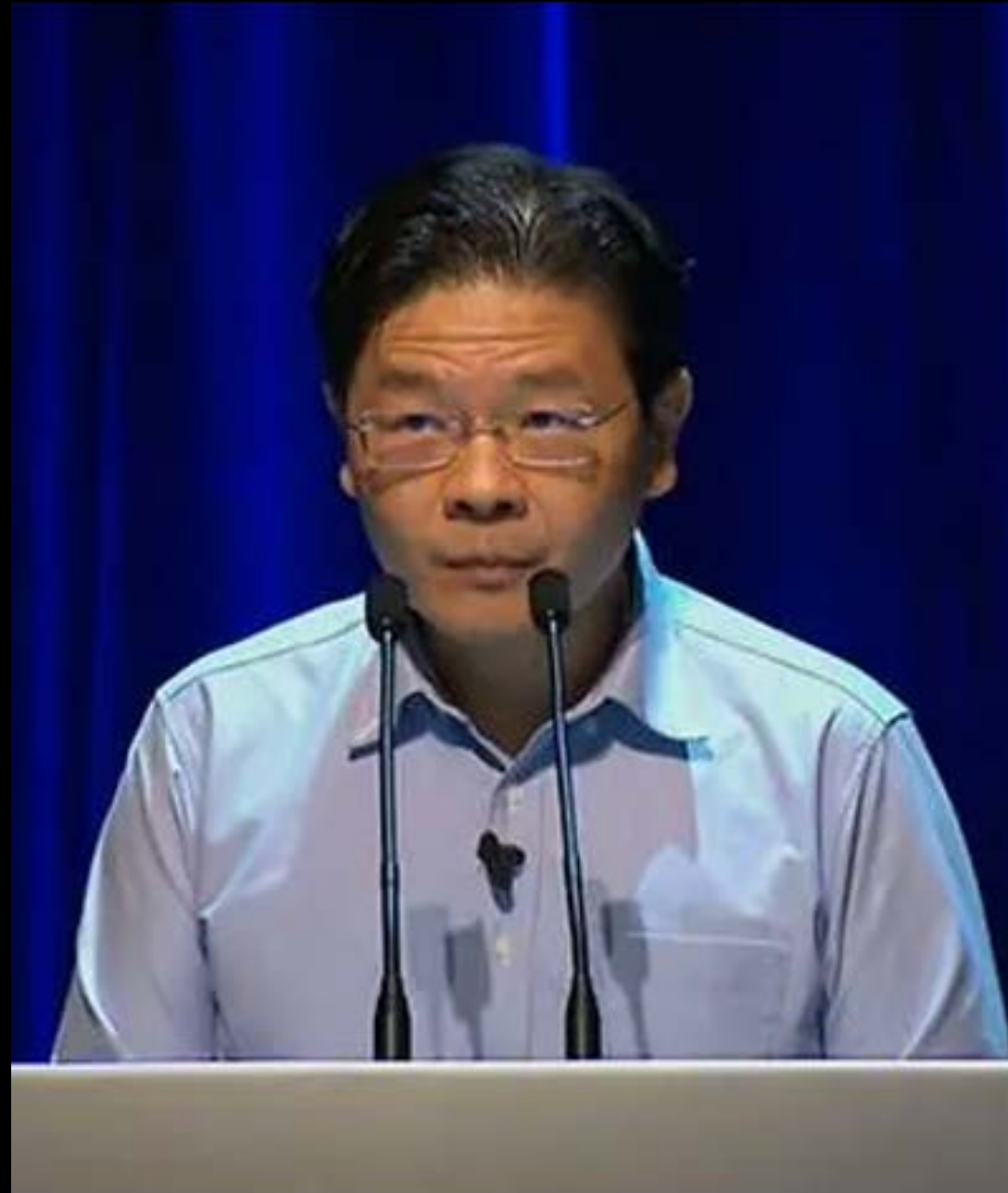


TRUE FAITH SAVES

JAMES 2:14-17

- True faith includes BOTH professed faith and practising faith.
- True faith is both talk AND action.
- True faith works/acts and saves.

Finance Minister Lawrence Wong speaking at the IPS-RSIS Forum on Race and Racism in Singapore on Jun 25, 2021.



But we would be fooling ourselves if we believed that racial and religious harmony were the natural order of things. It does not fall ready-made from the sky. There is nothing preordained about a multi-racial society..

But our founding leaders also knew that creating a Singaporean Singapore was not simply a matter of **mouth**ing slogans. They knew we needed deliberate policies, carefully thought out safeguards, and resolute efforts to ensure that minorities would be **protected**, that the majority would not abuse its dominance, that bigots and chauvinists from whatever race would be **constrained and curbed...**"



TRUE FAITH IS SPIRITUAL

JAMES 2:18-19

- Do demons exist?
- Demons believe:
 - the deity of Christ (Mt. 18:28-30; Mk 1:23, 3:11-12, 5:6-10);
 - Christ as Judge (Mk. 5:1-13);
 - there is a place of punishment (Lk. 8:31).
- Professors of faith have intellectual knowledge of God. Demons have both intellectual knowledge and emotional encounters with God.



TRUE FAITH IS SPIRITUAL

JAMES 2:18-19

- Difference between 'Believe THAT' and 'Believe IN'.
- Believe THAT: intellectual, emotional.
- Believe IN: intellectual, emotional AND spiritual.
- Believe IN: bears fruit for God, obedient to Jesus, submits to Holy Spirit.
- Don't just believe THAT God can heal, reconcile and change. Believe IN God Who can heal, reconcile and change you.



TRUE FAITH IS NEVER STATIC

JAMES 2:20-26

- True faith requires action and involves risks.
- Abraham and Rahab: 2 extreme examples.
- Though different, they are similar:
 - mentioned in Jesus' genealogy in Mt 1:2, 5;
 - mentioned as people of faith in Hebrews 11;
 - took risks by their actions (Gen. 22:1-19; Jos.2, 6:25)
- justified by God for their works of faith (v24).
- How have you practised True Faith?



PRACTICAL TIP TO EXERCISE TRUE FAITH - P.E.A.

- **PRAY:** to overcome (Jn. 16:33). For God's mercy (Luke 23:28-31).
- **EXAMINE:** Relationship with God (Ps. 139:1-2; 2 Cor. 13:5). Relationship with loved ones (Heb. 10:24, 'consider').
- **ACT:** Reconcile with God (Ps 51). Reconcile with one another (Col 3:13; Mt. 6:15; Mal. 4:5-6). Train our children to stand firm in the faith (Dt. 6:4-9; Eph. 6:4).



REFLECTION

- Jesus in John 14:12-13 and 14:15.
- What did you learn this morning?
- What is God saying to you today?
- Consider your relationships at home, work, public etc. Consider the life you live today. Are you willing to move entirely from a professed faith to true faith?
- What will you do?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the characteristics of professed faith?
2. Why can't professed faith save a person into eternal life?
3. What did Abraham and Rahab do that caused them to be justified by God for their faith?
4. Why is it necessary to practise true faith?
5. How are you able to practise true faith in 1 or 2 areas of your life (e.g. home, workplace, relationships / marriage / family, church, public, personal etc)?
6. What challenges do you anticipate when you take this bold step to practise true faith? What can you do about it?