

Introduction

1:1: The Readers of James (Part 1):

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

Acts 8:1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

1:18: The Readers of James (Part 2):

Of his own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

James 1:19-20: The Outline of the Book:

¹⁹ So then, my beloved brethren, let every man

[1] be swift to hear (heed), (1:21-2:26) -----

[2] slow to speak, (3:1-18)

[3] slow to wrath: (4:1-5:6)

²⁰ For the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

In which outline section is the faith-without-works passage (2:14-26)?



The Issue in James 2:14: One who has faith, but does not have works. Faith will not save him.

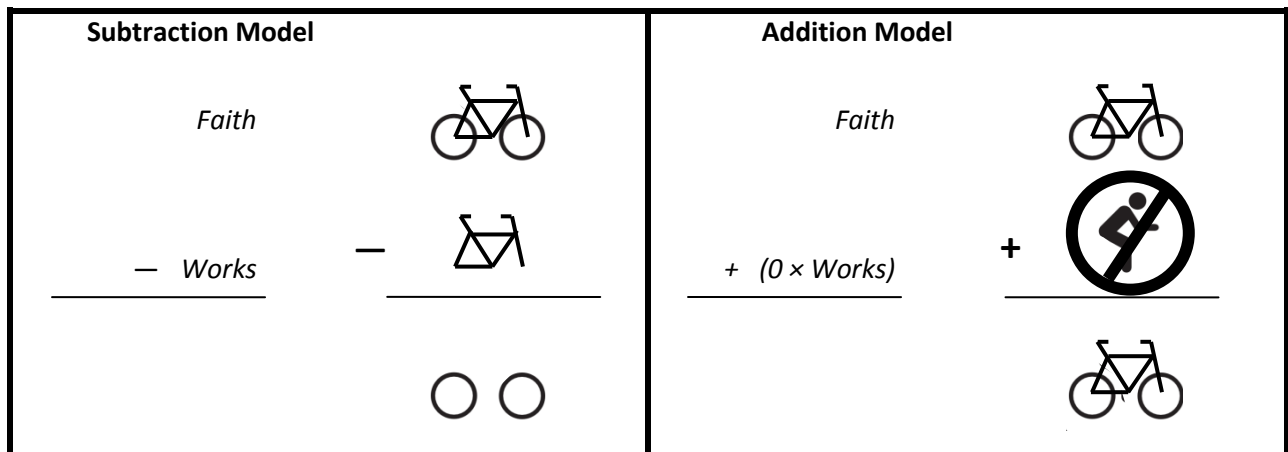
What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he hath faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?

The underlined question (in Greek) is written as a leading question. Let me illustrate:

1. You are Coloradans, aren't you? (Leads to an expected "Yes!" answer?)
2. You aren't Russians, are you? (Leads to an expected "No!" answer?)

James 2:14b (as a leading question) would be: *Faith cannot save him, can it?*

Two Possible Meanings for "faith without works" (2:20, 26)



1. Most people understand "faith without works" from a subtraction model standpoint
They say a bicycle w/o a frame goes nowhere (like faith w/o works)

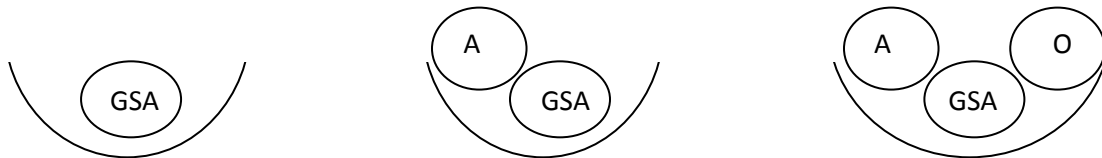
2. "Faith without works" should be understood from an addition model standpoint
A bicycle w/o a rider goes nowhere (like faith w/o works)

If a verse says "faith saves," ask "Faith in **what** _____ **saves** _____ **whom** _____ from **what** _____?"

In James 2, Believing **God's word** + application of God's word delivers **believers** from **sin** in their lives."

Apples and Oranges Illustration of the Addition Model versus the Subtraction Model:

1. Faith alone in Jesus Christ alone gives everlasting life (Granny Smith Apple).
2. Faith alone in Christian-way-of-life-truths does not deliver us from deadliness of sin (Apple).
3. Applied faith in Christian-way-of-life-truths delivers us from deadliness of sin (Apple + Orange)



Proving the Addition Model:

Subtraction Model	Addition Model
<p><i>Faith</i></p> <p>— <i>Works</i></p> <p>— </p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> <p><i>(supposedly) something less than faith</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p><i>Faith</i></p> <p>+ (<i>0 × Works</i>)</p> <p>+ </p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> <p><i>A bike going nowhere</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>

1. Most people understand “faith without works” from a subtraction model standpoint
They say a bicycle w/o a frame goes nowhere (like faith w/o works)
2. “Faith without works” should be understood from an addition model standpoint
A bicycle w/o a rider goes nowhere (like faith w/o works)

Let every man be **swift to hear,** **slow to speak, slow to wrath.**

Prologue	Theme	Body (1:21-5:6)			Epilogue
		Swift to Hear	Slow to speak	Slow to Wrath	
1:1-18	1:19-20				5:7-20
		1:21-27 +	2:1-13 +	2:14-26 +	
			3:1-18	4:1-5:6	

1:21-2:26 has one thrust (swift to hear) under three subheads, those subheads should be unified:
That is, if two of them have an addition model, the other would not have a subtraction model.
If two of them have an addition model, the third should have an addition model also.

Religious Devotion that Pleases God (1:21-27)

1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Is this addition? Is it subtraction? (underline correct one)

Not Showing Improper Partiality (2:1-13)

2:1 My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. (Brethren = believers, cf. 1:18)

Is this addition? Is it subtraction? (underline correct one)

Applying Truths that (one who already is) a Christian Believes (2:14-26)

2:14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? (KJV of 2:14a; speaker's translation of 2:14b)

Is this addition? Is it subtraction? (underline correct one)

The deliverance (salvation) is of a one who is already a Christian. Next time, we will discover what it is that faith + application (works) delivers a Christian from.

Summary of James 2:14:

(2:14) Believing Christian-way-of-life truth without applying that Christian-way-of-life truth does not save (deliver) eternally-secure believers from the deadly power of sin in their lives

(2:15f) By analogy to the inability of unapplied faith (in Christian-way-of-life truth) resembles the inability of merely wishing a needy eternally-secure brother or eternally-secure sister well to deliver the brother or sister from his or her deprivations

(2:16) Thus, also Believing Christian-way-of-life truth by itself [without applying that Christian-way-of-life truth] does not save (deliver) eternally-secure believers from the deadly power of sin in their lives

CONCLUSION