



Do You Have
Genuine Saving Faith?

James 2:14-26



JAMES 2

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? **15** Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. **16** If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their 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 my deeds. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that - and shudder.



20 You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? 21 Was not our father 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 considered righteous by what they do 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.

Theological Controversy



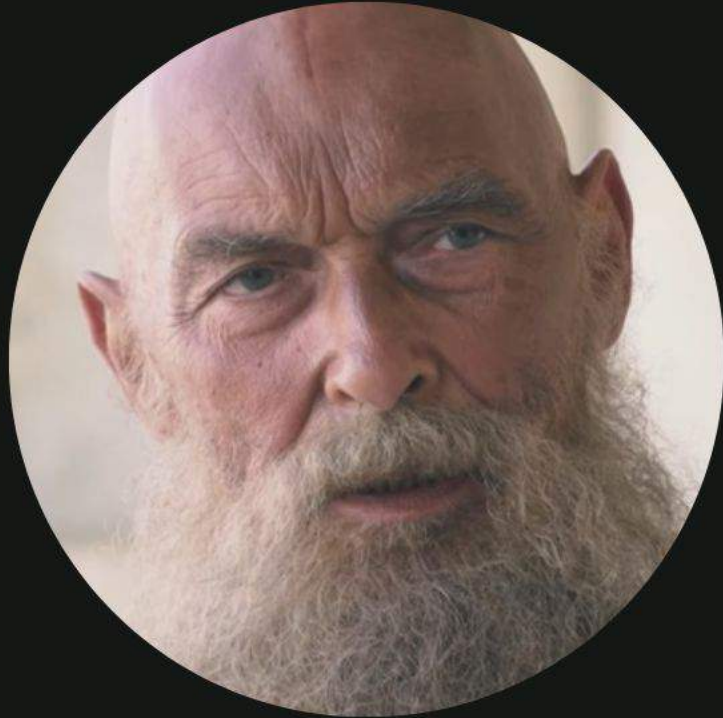
PAUL FAITH ALONE

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. *(Ephesians 2)*



JAMES FAITH + WORKS

24 You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone. *(James 2)*



EPHESIANS 2

**8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God –
9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**



JOHN PIPER

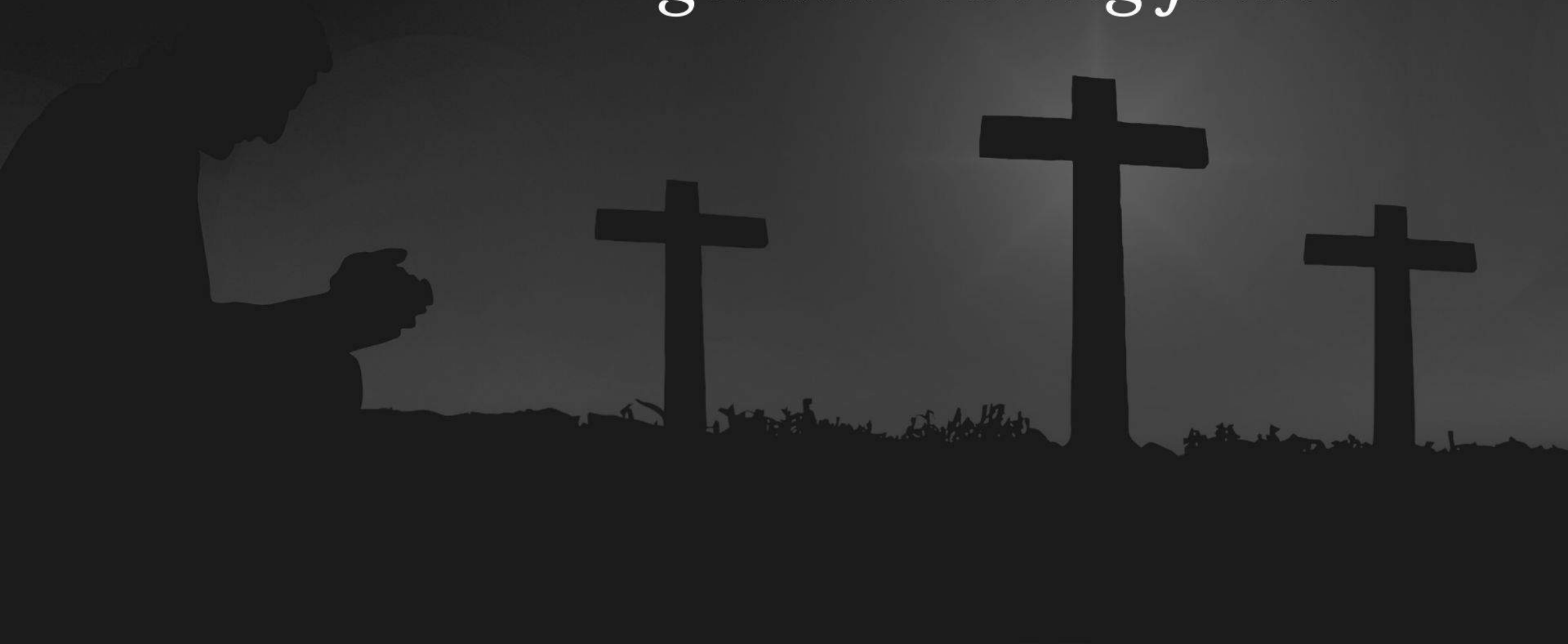
... when Paul renounces "justification by works" he renounces the view that anything we do along with faith is credited to us as righteousness. Only faith obtains the verdict, not guilty, when we become Christians. Works of any kind are not acceptable in the moment of initial justification. But when James affirms "justification by works" he means that works are absolutely necessary in the ongoing life of a Christian to confirm and prove the reality of the faith which justifies.



JOHN PIPER

For Paul, "justification by works" (which he rejects) means "gaining right standing with God by the merit of works." For James, "justification by works" (which he accepts) means "maintaining a right standing with God by faith along with the necessary evidence of faith, namely, the works of love."

What is ...
genuine saving faith?



Eternal Destiny?

MATT 7.21

HEAVEN

**NOT EVERYONE
WHO SAYS TO ME,
'LORD, LORD,'
WILL ENTER
THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN,
BUT ONLY THE ONE WHO DOES
THE WILL OF MY FATHER
WHO IS IN HEAVEN.**



Dead Faith

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? **Can such faith save them?**

(James 2)

Dead Faith



James 2

15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, *faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*



1 John 3

18 Dear children, let us not love with words or
speech but with actions and in truth.

Warren Wiersbe



Dead Faith

Any declaration of faith that does not result in a changed life and good works is a false declaration. That kind of faith is dead faith. True saving faith cannot be by itself: it always brings life, and life produces good works. The person with dead faith has only an intellectual experience. In his mind, he knows the doctrines of salvation, but he has never submitted himself to God and trusted Christ for salvation. He knows the right words, but he does not back up his words with his works. Faith in Christ brings life and where there is life there must be growth and fruit.

We cannot “see” someone’s faith, but we can see their works. You cannot see faith without works, but you can demonstrate the reality of faith by works.

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

**Show me your faith
without deeds, and I
will show you my
faith by my deeds.**

James 2:18 NIV

Demon Faith

You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

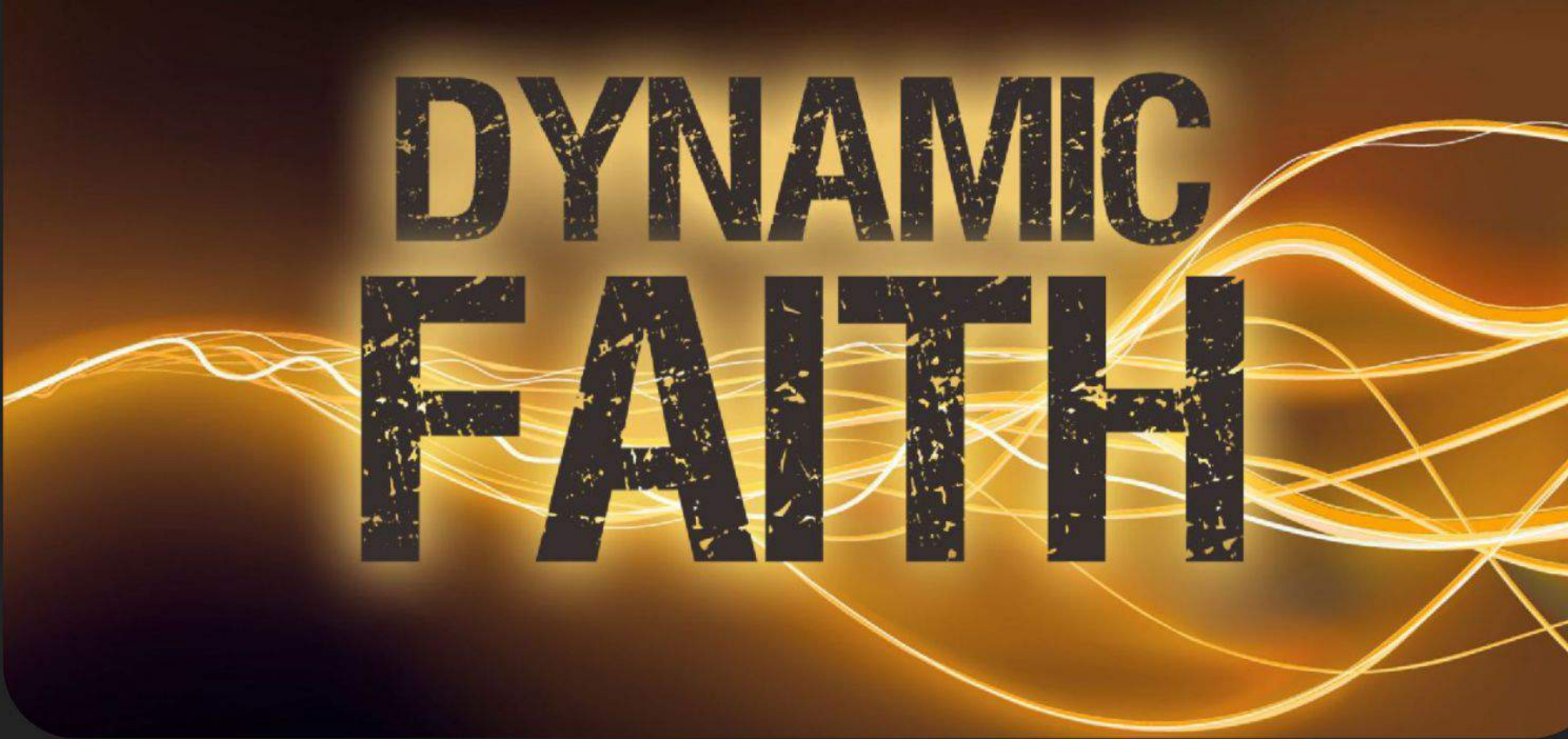
~ James 2:19 NIV

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DYNAMIC FAITH



**20 You foolish person, do you want evidence that
faith without deeds is useless? *(James 2)***

Abraham

**DYNAMIC
FAITH**

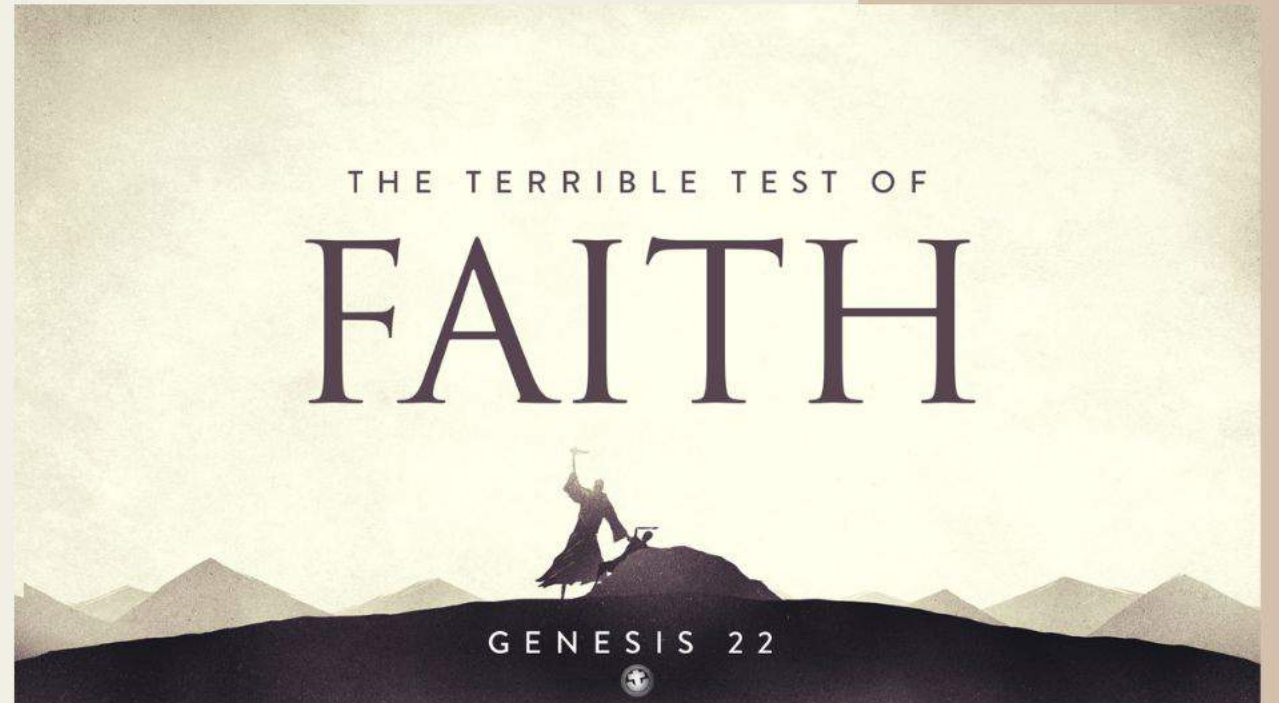
21 Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,' and he was called God's friend. 24 You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone. *(James 2)*

5 He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” 6 Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness. *(Genesis 15)*



FAITH IN ACTION

21 Was not our father 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. (James 2)



JAMES 2

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?

(James 2)

For just as
the body
without the
spirit is dead,
so also *faith*
without
works is
dead.

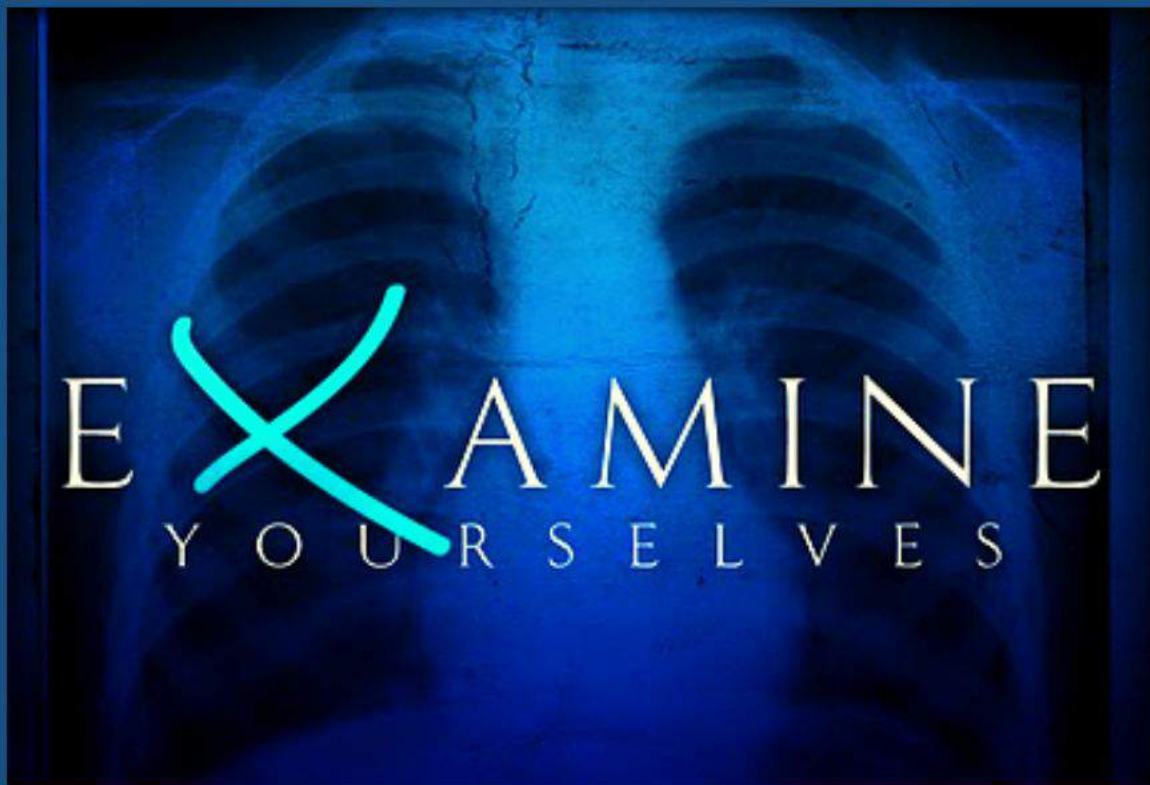
James 2:26
(NASB)



Rahab

A landscape photograph of a mountain valley with a circular graphic overlay. The scene shows rolling green hills and mountains under a hazy, golden sky. A circular graphic, composed of two parallel lines forming a circle, is centered over the text. The text "GENUINE FAITH" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

GENUINE FAITH



5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?

(2 Corinthians 13)