

**Talk Is Cheap**  
**Week 5: Working Faith**

## **1. Introduction**

- Welcome and greeting to Tab Church and first-time guests.
- Connection between worship and generosity.
- Overview of the Letter of James and its tensions.
- Recap of James 2 and the sin of favoritism.

## **2. The Tension Between Faith and Works**

- Introduction to the discussion on faith and works.
- The perceived tension between James and Paul.
- Paul's perspective on justification through faith (Romans 4:1-5).
- James' challenge: Is faith without works effective for salvation?

## **3. James' Definition of Works**

- James 2:14-17—Faith without action is dead.
- Practical example: Providing for those in need.
- The role of mercy in a living faith.
- The danger of empty words—"Talk is cheap."
- The misuse of prayer as an excuse for inaction.

## **4. Reconciling James and Paul**

- Understanding the historical context of James and Romans.
- The complementary nature of their teachings.
- James' literary tactic: Interlocution (hypothetical argument).
- James 2:18-19—Faith as creedal confession vs. faith in action.
- Even demons believe—But belief alone does not equal working faith.

## **5. The Consequences of Faith Without Works**

- James 2:20—Faith without works is useless.
- The call to active obedience and mercy.
- Real-life application: Helping the vulnerable and needy.

## **6. Examples of Working Faith**

- **Abraham** (James 2:21-24)
  - Faith and works together in offering Isaac.
  - Fulfillment of Scripture—Abraham as God's friend.
- **Rahab** (James 2:25-26)
  - An unlikely example of faith in action.
- Conclusion: Faith that does not produce action is as dead as a body without breath.

## **7. Closing Thoughts**

- Faith and works are inseparable.
- Saving faith activates a heart for God and others.
- Works do not save us but are the evidence of genuine faith.
- Encouragement to live out a working faith.