**Without a reality, a ritual is meaningless – Romans 4**

**1. Abraham’s faith: No brag, just fact – Romans 4:1-5**

* **God gives righteousness to faith apart from works**

**2. King David agrees with Abraham – Romans 4:6-8**

**3. Abraham: Justified Before Circumcision – Romans 4:9-10**

* **The ritual reflects the reality**
* **Ritual is meaningless without reality**
* **The reality must precede the ritual; faith must precede baptism just like faith precedes circumcision**

**4. Abraham: the “father” of all who believe – Romans 4:11-12**

**5. Abraham: The Heir of the world through faith – Romans 4:13-18**

* **Assurance can only come by faith, not works; assurance is of the essence of faith**
* **Grace comes to those who believe, not those who rely on works**

 **Faith believes God is able to deliver Jn. 6:47**

* **Do we believe or “really believe”?**
* **Do the demons believe that Jesus is the Christ? Yes.**
* **James 2:19 has been butchered**
* **Rom. 4:15: The Law makes wrath ineveitable; Through the Law is the knowledge of sin**

**6. Abraham believed God could deliver – Romans 4:19-22**

**7. Abraham’s story was for us, too – Romans 4:23-25**

* **“Was delivered” = “Hand over to the custody of” – Used of the police and the courts**
* **The death of Jesus brings justification. The resurrection to life affirms God’s acceptance of His sacrifice**

**James 2:19 – What is it talking about?**

**“You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!”**

**What it is not talking about**

* **Head faith vs. heart faith; Believing vs. really believing**
* **The demons proving a person can believe but not really believe**

**What it is talking about**

* **Monotheism**
* **The “imaginary objector” is trying to establish that faith and works have no connection. James thinks they do have a connection, but it involves those who are already born again. It’s not saying works prove one believes.**

**Paraphrase**

**“You believe in one God (monotheism). It causes you to do well. The demons also believe in one God (monotheism), and they’re scared (and they should be!)”**

* **The demons have the CORRECT faith in this passage. That’s why they “tremble”. This is not an example of true faith and false faith.**
* **They were never offered eternal life. Christ did not die for them, but “for the sins of the world” and desires that all “men” will be saved. Heb. 2:16**

**Overall Context**

* **1:15 – James is concerned that sin ultimately results in death.**
* **1:18 – James has no doubt that his readers are born again.**
* **Thus far in the book, James has taught that sin brings death and that God brings life through His Word.**
* **1:21 – Because sin brings death, James wanted his readers (believers) to “lay aside” sin so they would not experience its death-dealing consequences. Instead, he wanted them to receive the “implanted Word” with humility so that it might deliver their lives from the ruin sin brought.**
* **To do that, they needed to act on what they learned from the Word and be “doers of the Word”, and not just hearers (1:22).**
* **The “salvation of the soul (life)” then, was for believers to be delivered from the ruin of sin that trials can cause us to descend into. This is a consistent use throughout the book (as in 5:15 and 5:20).**
* **James 2:14 is the same idea started in ch. 1. James’ concern is that simply talking and not acting on love for other believers would not deliver them from the ruin of sin. The “justification” of James 2 is before men, not God. Rom. 4:1-5; James 2:24. There is more than one type of justification.**