

# James 2:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

## Analysis

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**Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.** Believing God is one (heis estin ho Theos, εἰς ἐστιν ὁ Θεός) is orthodox monotheism, but even demons (daimonia, δαίμονια) believe and shudder (phrissousin, φρίσσουσιν). Intellectual assent without obedience aligns us with demonic faith—accurate but unredeemed.

Reformed theology distinguishes *notitia* and *assensus* from *fiducia*: knowledge and assent must be joined with trusting reliance. Mere doctrinal correctness without transformation is demonic-level belief.

## Historical Context

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Jewish Shema confession (Deuteronomy 6:4) was recited daily. James warns that reciting truth without embodying love is worthless. Demons have sound theology yet oppose God. Paul similarly warns in Romans 2 that possessing the law while disobeying it brings judgment.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. Where might you possess orthodox beliefs without corresponding obedience?
2. How can you ensure doctrine fuels love, not pride?
3. What practices help convert knowledge into action?

## Interlinear Text

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σὺ	πιστεύουσιν	ὅτι	ό	θεός	εἷς	ἐστιν	καλῶς	ποιεῖς·
<b>Thou</b>	<b>believe</b>	<b>that</b>	G3588	<b>God</b>	<b>one</b>	<b>there is</b>	<b>well</b>	<b>thou doest</b>
G4771	G4100	G3754		G2316	G1520	G2076	G2573	G4160
καὶ	τὰ	δαιμόνια	πιστεύουσιν	καὶ	φρίσσουσιν			
<b>also</b>	G3588	<b>the devils</b>		<b>believe</b>	<b>also</b>	<b>tremble</b>		
G2532		G1140		G4100	G2532	G5425		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 4:34** (References God): Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God.

**Mark 1:24** (References God): Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

**Matthew 8:29** (References God): And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

**Acts 16:17** (References God): The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.

**Deuteronomy 6:4** (References God): Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

**Isaiah 44:8** (References God): Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.

**Mark 5:7** (References God): And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.

**Galatians 3:20** (References God): Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.

**Zechariah 14:9** (Parallel theme): And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

**Isaiah 46:9** (References God): Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,