

## Faith And Works

James 2:14-26

### Review:

- Must be a “doer” and not a “hearer only.”  
*James 1:22-25*
- Inactive faith renders “vain” one’s religion.  
*James 1:26-27*
- A “doer of the word” does not discriminate on account of appearance. *James 2:1-13*

## Faith & Works – James 2:14-26

### Three Divisions Of The Text:

- Can faith without works save? 2:14-17
- Can faith (saving faith) be separated from works? 2:18-25
- Conclusion: Faith without works is dead.  
2:26

## Faith Only

- Not saving faith. Verse 14
  - “Can *THAT* faith save him?” NO!
- Faith saves. Ephesians 2:8
- Faith justifies. Romans 5:1
- Faith purifies. Acts 15:9
- Children of God by faith. Galatians 3:26-27 (When?)

“Wherefore, that we are justified by faith only, is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort.”  
(METHODIST CHURCH “The Articles of Religion,” Article IX; *The Book of Discipline*, page 57)

## Faith Only

### Martin Luther’s Explanation –

- Changed Romans 3:28 to read, “*We reckon therefore that a man is justified by **faith only.***”
- Rejected the book of James.  
“James is a **right strawy** epistle,” ... “no gospel character in it,” ... “**I will not have it in my Bible** in the number of the proper chief books.”
  - cf. John 12:48
- NOTE: Galatians 1:6-9

## Faith And Works

1. There are two general kinds of faith mentioned in the Scriptures.
  - a. A narrow faith which involves only the acceptance of testimony. John 12:42; James 2:19.
  - b. A comprehensive faith which includes conviction, trust and obedience. John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8; Romans 5:1.
2. There are three kinds of works mentioned in the Scriptures.
  - a. Works of the law of Moses. Romans 3:28; Galatians 3:2.
  - b. Works of human merit and glory. Ephesians 2:9; Titus 3:5.
  - c. Works of faith, righteousness, obedience. Acts. 10:34-35; 1 Thessalonians 1:3.

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## Explanations Of James 2

Wide-spread Denominational Explanation – Unacceptable.

- “The passage is applicable to the Christian, but not to the sinner.
- Good works are necessary to show one has been saved, but works are wholly unnecessary in order to be saved.”

## Explanations Of James 2

Wide-spread Denominational Explanation – Unacceptable

- Requires two kinds of faith:
  - One that saves: (Non-working, inactive, wholly trusting)
  - One that keeps us saved. (Working, active, obedient)
- We are not saved by a dead faith and kept saved by a live faith!
- NOTE: Ephesians 4:5 One faith that saves!

## Different Kinds Of Faith

- There are two general kinds of FAITH mentioned in the Scriptures.
  - A faith which involves only the acceptance of testimony. John 8:30-44; John 12:42; James 2:19.
  - A comprehensive faith which includes conviction, trust, and obedience. John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8; Romans 5:1.

## Different Kinds Of Works

- There are three kinds of WORKS mentioned in the Scriptures.
  - Works of the law of Moses. Romans 3:28; Galatians 3:2
  - Works of human merit and glory. Ephesians 2:9; Titus 3:5
  - Works of faith, righteousness, obedience. Acts 10:34-35; 1 Thessalonians 1:3

## The Proposition Stated – James 2:14

*James 2:14 “What doth it profit, my brethren, if a man say he hath faith, but have not works? can that faith save him?”*

**Can the kind of faith that has no works save him?**

A faith which involves only the acceptance of testimony. John 8:30-44; John 12:42; James 2:19.

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## Importance of Saving Faith

*John 3:16 “whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life.”*

*John 3:36 “He that (obeyeth not, ASV), the Son shall not see life.”*

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## Importance of Saving Faith

Romans 5:1-2 "Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; through whom also we have had our access by faith into this grace wherein we stand."

Galatians 3:26-27 "For ye are all sons of God, through faith, in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ."

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## The Proposition Illustrated – James 2:15-16

James 2:15-17 "If a brother or sister be naked and in lack of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Go in peace, be ye warmed and filled; and yet ye give them not the things needful to the body; what doth it profit?"

Even so faith, if it have not works, is dead in itself."

➤ Saving faith "works by love." cf. Galatians 5:6

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## Faith Without Works. Verse 14

- Profession is not enough. Luke 6:46; Matthew 7:21ff
- Lord demands doing. Matthew 7:24; Acts 2:37; 2 Peter 1:10

Faith without works condemns!

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## Can (Saving) Faith Be Separated From Works? – James 2:18

James' challenge:

"show me thy faith apart from (thy) works."  
cf. Matthew 7:21

Demons believe and shudder. James 2:19

- Jesus was their destroyer. Mark 1:24; 5:7
- Recognized Jesus and confessed Him to be God's Son and trembled at His presence. Mark 5:7; Luke 4:34
- Jesus was to torment them. Matthew 8:29

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## Saving Faith Illustrated

Abraham. Verses 21-23

- "Abraham ... justified by works, in that he offered up Isaac." James 2:21
- "By faith Abraham ... offered up Isaac." Hebrews 11:17
- **Read Genesis 22:1-14. (Note words of action.)**
  - Abraham believed God!

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## Saving Faith Illustrated

Abraham. Verses 21-23

- NOTE: "Thou seest that faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect." verse 22

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## Saving Faith Illustrated

Rahab. Verse 25

- *“By faith Rahab ... received the spies with peace.”*  
Hebrews 11:31
- *“Rahab ... justified by works, in that she received the messengers and sent them out another way.”*  
James 2:25
  - **Read Joshua 2:1-21. (Note words of action.)**
- NOTE: *“And in like manner ...”* “Thou seest that faith wrought with his (her) works, and by works was faith made perfect.” verse 22

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## Salvation By Grace Through Faith ... Ephesians 2:8-9 & James Reconciled

➤ What did the Ephesians do that Paul calls, “Saved by Grace Through Faith ...”?

1. Heard – Ephesians 1:13; Romans 10:17
2. Believed – Ephesians 1:13; Acts 19:5, 18
3. Repented – Acts 19:19; 20:21
4. Confessed – Acts 19:18; Romans 10:9-10
5. Baptized – Acts 19:5; 2:38

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## Final Statement:

*James 2:17 “Even so faith, if it have not works, is dead in itself.”*

*James 2:20 “But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith apart from works is barren?”*

*James 2:26 “For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, even so faith apart from works is dead.”*

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