

## Faith And Works

James 2:14-26

## Salvation By Faith And Works

- *Ephesians 2:8-9* “For by grace have ye been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, (it is) the gift of God; not of works, that no man should glory.”
- *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?”

## Salvation By Faith And Works

- *Titus 3:5* “not by works (done) in righteousness, which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy he saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit”
- *James 2:24* “Ye see that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith.”

## Faith Without Works James 2:14-22

- Unprofitable. Verse 14
  - Circumcision. Galatians 5:6
  - Meats. Hebrews 13:9
  - Benevolence without love. 1 Corinthians 13:3

## Faith Without Works James 2:14-22

- Mere profession. Verse 14
  - Profession is not enough. Luke 6:46; Matthew 23:3; 7:21ff
  - Lord demands doing. Matthew 7:24; Acts 2:37; 2 Peter 1:10

## Faith Without Works James 2:14-22

- 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
- Faith without works condemns!  
 “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 Without Works James 2:14-22

- Is dead. Verse 17
  - As a dead body. cf. verse 26
  - Works are to faith what life is to the body.

## Faith Without Works James 2:14-22

- Is incapable of demonstration. Verse 18
  - The Lord demonstrated His love for us. Ephesians 2:7; John 3:16; Romans 5:8
  - “*Show me thy faith ...*” cf. Titus 2:7; Hebrews 6:11

## Faith Without Works James 2:14-22

- Is the faith of demons. Verse 19
  - Demons recognized Jesus and confessed Him to be God’s Son and trembled at His presence. Mark 5:7; Luke 4:34

## Faith Without Works James 2:14-22

- Is an imperfect faith. Verse 22
  - “Perfect” *teleiōæ* “Particularly with the meaning to bring to a full end, completion, reaching the intended goal, to finish a work or duty” (*The Complete Word Study Dictionary*) Hebrews 2:10; 5:9; 9:9; 10:14; 11:40
    - Faith must be completed by works.

## Saving Faith Illustrated

- Abraham. Verse 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.)
  - What kind of works?
    - Human, meritorious works? NO!
    - Works of the Law of Moses? NO!
    - Works of obedience? YES!
  - NOTE: “*Thou seest that faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect.*” verse 22

## 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

## Three Explanations Of James 2

### 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.”
- NOTE: Galatians 1:6-9

## Three Explanations Of James 2

### Wide-spread Denominational Explanation –

- “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.”

## Three Explanations Of James 2

### Wide-spread Denominational Explanation –

- “Good works are necessary to show one has been saved, but works are wholly unnecessary in order to be saved.”
- 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!

## Three Explanations Of James 2

### True Explanation of Faith and Works.

- There are two kinds of FAITH mentioned in the Scriptures.
  - A faith which involves only the acceptance of testimony. John 12:42; James 2:19.
  - A comprehensive faith which includes conviction, trust and obedience. John 3:16, 36; Ephesians 2:8; Romans 5:1.

## Three Explanations Of James 2

### True Explanation of Faith and 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

## Salvation by Grace Through Faith Ephesians 2:8-9

- 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

## Conclusion

- Faith that saves, is faith that obeys.  
John 3:36; 2 Thessalonians 1:8
- Do you have that simple, trusting, obedient faith that will lead you to “*repent and be baptized for the remission of sins*”?