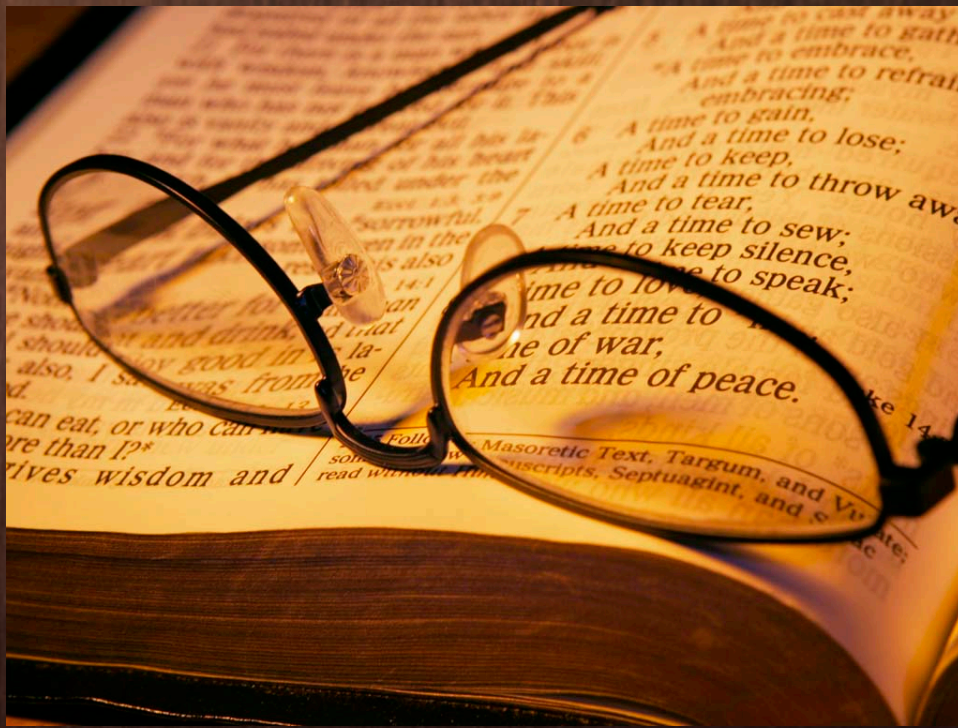
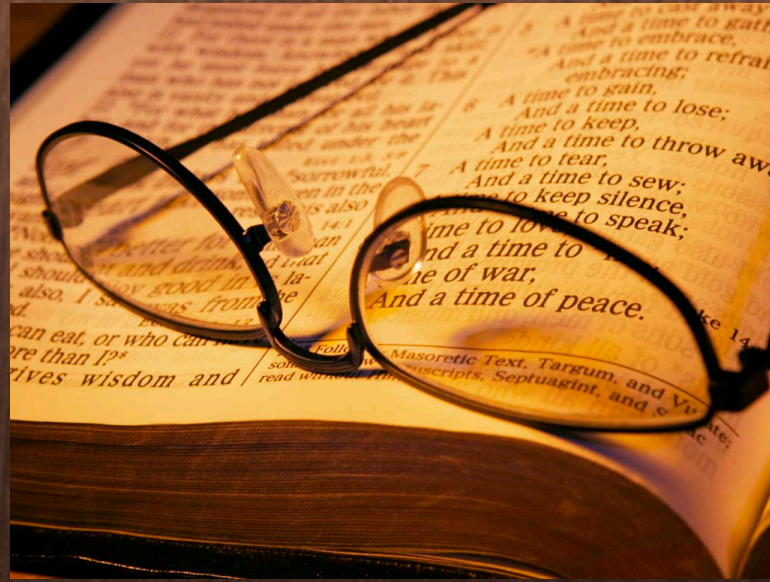


# *Be Ye Doers of the Word*



*Thoughts  
on the  
Book  
of  
JAMES*



# ***Faith & Works***

# NOT Faith VS. Works

- James gets it **RIGHT!**
- There has been much debate over the **DIFFERENCES** between James & Paul
- Saved by **FAITH** or saved by **WORKS?**



## PAUL

*“Therefore we conclude that a man is **justified by faith** without the deeds of the law.”*

*- Romans 3:28*

Faith **ALONE** saves

A person is **NOT** saved by **Works**

## JAMES

*“What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? **can faith save him?**”*

*- James 2:14*

Faith **CAN’ T** save you

Good works “profit” us

## PAUL

*“For by **grace** are ye saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **NOT OF WORKS**, lest any man should boast.”*

*- Ephesians 2:8-9*

We **CANNOT**  
be **SAVED**  
by **WORKS**

## JAMES

*“Even so **faith**, if it hath not works, is **DEAD**, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast **faith**, and I have works: shew me thy **faith** without thy works, and I will shew thee my **faith** by my works.”*

*- James 2:17-18*

Unless you have **WORKS**  
**FAITH** can't save you

# Debate Resolved

- The solution to most disagreements is not a **COMPROMISE** but a **COMBINATION**
- James doesn't **CONTRADICT** Paul's teaching of Justification by Faith
- James **COMPLEMENTS** Paul's teaching of Justification by Faith



## PAUL

“This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to **MAINTAIN GOOD WORKS**. These things are good and profitable unto men.”  
- Titus 3:8

Paul **AGREED** with James

## JAMES

“And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was **Imputed unto him for Righteousness**: and he was called the Friend of God.”  
- James 2:23

James **AGREED** with Paul

# Why?

- The **ERROR** that Paul corrected was that salvation comes **BY YOUR WORKS**
- The **ERROR** that James corrected was that **WORKS ARE UNNECESSARY** once you have faith





# James & Paul

- Paul taught that the righteousness demanded by God **CANNOT** be obtained by **WORKS**
- Paul taught that **salvation** is a **gracious GIFT of God**, given to those who have faith in Him



# James & Paul

- James believed the same things as Paul
- If we truly have the **SAVING FAITH**, then we will **FILL** our lives with **GOOD WORKS**
- The outward appearance of **GOOD WORKS** is a testament to the saving faith in our heart



# James & Paul

- **WORKS** are **REJECTED** by Paul as the **MEANS** of **SALVATION**
- **WORKS** are **UNDERSTOOD** by James to be the **RESULT** of **SALVATION**



## James 2:15-18 NIV

- 15) Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food.
- 16) If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?
- 17) In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.
- 18) But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.



# Outward Expression

- Actions that are **OUTWARD ACTS** done for the purpose of trying to receive merit are of **NO VALUE** for attaining salvation
- However, those who trust and obey Jesus Christ **WILL** produce works that are motivated by the Spirit



# Outward Expression

- Just because someone is seen doing good works doesn't mean that they are going to be saved
- But, everyone who is going to be saved is going to be seen doing good works



## James 2:20 NIV

20) You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?



# Abraham

- James and Paul **BOTH** turn to the life of **Abraham** when they want to support the concept of **Faith & Works**





## Romans 4:2-3 NIV

2) If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about - but not before God.

3) What does the Scripture say?

“Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”



## Genesis 15:5-6 KJV

- 5) And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.
- 6) And he **believed in the LORD**; and he **counted it to him for righteousness.**



# Faith

- It is the **SIMPLE ACT OF FAITH** that God wants from each of us
- God simply wants us to **BELIEVE HIM**
- It is **NOT** our works that bring us salvation



## Romans 4:4-5 NIV

- 4) Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation.
- 5) However, to the man who does not work but trusts **God who justifies the wicked**, his faith is credited as righteousness.



# Abraham Trusted God

- Abraham realized that God would solve his problem
- We ALL need to turn to God for salvation
- All that is asked of us is that we have the faith to believe that this is we will be saved
- *Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness*



## James 2:23 NIV

23) And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend.



## James 2:21-22 NIV

- 21) Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?
- 22) You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.



# Working Together

- James shows what happens in a person's life when they have FAITH
- If you really do believe in God, so strongly that God would count it as righteousness, then your life will be FILLED with works of faith
- It is NOT faith ALONE that saves





## James 2:24 KJV James 2:18 KJV

24) Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith **ONLY**.

18) Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: **shew me thy faith without thy works**, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.



# Faith Saves Us

- We are all **DEPENDENT** Upon the **grace of God** for Salvation
- But, if you aren't doing anything **GOOD** with your life, then are you really **SURE** that you have the **saving faith**?



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:8-9 KJV

- 8) Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;
- 9) Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, **NOT according to our WORKS, but according to HIS own purpose and GRACE**, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began



# Strength & Weakness

- God has chosen us **NOT** for our **STRENGTHS**, but for our **WEAKNESSES**
- We are saved because **God desires it**, **NOT** because **we've earned it**



# Uncomfortable?

- We are comfortable with the idea that we cannot **EARN** our way into the Kingdom **REGARDLESS** of our **GOOD** actions
- We are not as comfortable with the idea of being **GIVEN** salvation **DESPITE** our **SINFUL** actions



# God's Love

- Understanding God's LOVE is a key to understanding Justification by Faith
- Salvation is **CONDITIONAL**, but God's love isn't
- God **LOVES** sinners!



## James 2:10-11 NIV

- 10) For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at **JUST ONE POINT** is guilty of breaking **ALL OF IT**.
- 11) For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.



# Justified by the Grace of God

- To have faith in the **FACT** that He **CAN** and **WILL** extend His mercy to us
- One of the keys to learning to trust in His mercy and grace is to realize that you are in **need of that grace**





## James 2:25 NIV

25) In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?



# Rahab

- Most Christians would feel **uncomfortable** if Rahab were to walk into their Church
- God has nothing but **GOOD** to say about **Rahab**



## Hebrews 11:31 KJV

31) By **FAITH** the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.



# Rahab

- James shows that it is possible to have intellectual agreement concerning the Truth, without having **REAL FAITH**
- Rahab shows that if you have **REAL FAITH** it doesn't matter what you used to do
- God is more concerned about what we are **GOING TO DO** after we come to Him than what we **HAVE DONE**



# Rahab

James 2:25 KJV

25) Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works...

- *Homoios* = in the same way



## Matthew 1:5-6 NIV

- 5) Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse,
- 6) and Jesse the father of King David...



# Faith & Works

