

# **The Work of Faith**

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## James 2:14-26

One can have faith without works, and one can have works without faith. These two can exist apart from one another

### **Works without faith.** (Faith in Christ)

No one can save their self by their own good works.

Trying to be righteous in our own efforts is to deny the righteousness of God and to trust in our own; it is to trust in our own flesh.

“Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.” Romans 8

### **Faith without works.**

To have faith without works proves to be a mere confession. It is to be a Christian in theory.

- Believing the tenets of faith w/out the practice thereof.
  - This is a lifeless faith – “Faith without works is dead.”
  - Lifeless faith cannot and will not save us.

**James 2:18** - *But someone may well say, “You have faith and I have works.”  
“Show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”*

*Saving faith goes beyond intellectual acceptance of a theological proposition*

The work or works produced from/by faith are the actions taken in obedient response to

- God’s word
- Gods call / what God may ask of an individual

Works are the fruit of real, genuine faith; that is, **faith that is alive**.

- **James 2:24** - You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.

**God is glorified in, by, and through our works of faith.**

### **The Vine and Branches:**

#### **John 15:1–8**

<sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

<sup>2</sup>“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.

<sup>4</sup>“The branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine. <sup>5</sup> ...Apart from Me you can do nothing.

<sup>6</sup>“If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.

<sup>7</sup>“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

<sup>8</sup>“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.