

James: Faith at Work

"The Bible's Blueprint for Faith & Works" (Pt 2)

James 2:20-26

Sunday, July 26th, 2026

~ In my opinion, when it comes to the Paul versus James debate (faith & works), there are three kinds of people. As we think about this potential conflict, there is:

- 1) Someone who is aware of this problem and already knows the answer.
- 2) Someone who is aware of the problem, but isn't sure how to explain it or understand it.
- 3) Someone who didn't even know there was this problem.

~ A Biblical (and logical) Definition of Faith & Works ~

I. Biblical faith is a faith that holds Christ as the _____, it _____ in Christ for salvation, and it _____ to following Jesus during your time on earth.

II. Works can be defined as simply following the _____ and _____ the words of Jesus.

> *The Reason We Need this Message*: When we rightly understand the Bible's teaching on good works, we are able to free ourselves from relying on or thinking our good works make us good people.

> God's love is **greater** than your desires to work for Him and His kingdom! Jesus loves you regardless of your works.

~ Faith is a key doctrine in the Christian life... but this faith, this saving faith is a faith that works itself out (Philippians 2:12). It's a dynamic faith. Biblical faith in some shape or form is the *life blood of the Christian life*.

> Last week, we looked at verses 14-19; but vs. 18-19 say something that should catch our attention: the counterfeit faith James is combatting, that dead faith ... it is _____!

Does James Contradict Paul in Scripture?

~ The Scripture in question Romans 3:21-28 ***For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.*** (vs. 28)

~ James 2:24 & 26 - ***"You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone." "For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead."***

> How do we resolve this? Context always helps the reader! If you knew that we have *two different authors* writing to *two different audiences* at *two different times*. Paul is arguing for faith & works from a _____-conversion perspective and James is arguing from a _____-conversion perspective.

Scriptures that Talk about Faith & Works:

- Revelation 20:12-13
- Hebrews 11:6 ***"And without faith it is impossible to please him.."***
- Ephesians 2:8-9
- 2 Corinthians 5:7 ***"We walk by faith, not by sight."***
- Matthew 7:15-23 *****and verse 24*****
- Matthew 16:27 - speaking of His return ... ***"then he will repay each person according to what he has done."***

~ We are not saved by faith in faith; We are saved by faith in _____

> Never forget the thief on the cross! (Luke 23:39-43) It's an example of faith & works!