

Can Faith Save You?

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I. Can Faith Save You? (cf. Gen. 22; Josh. 2)

¹⁴ What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit? ¹⁷ Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

- Can faith save him?
 - We've learned that faith is more than just a mental assent, more than just a belief: faith is responding to God.
 - Faith is responding obediently to what God has said.
 - James is arguing against the idea that faith is workless.
- What does it profit?
 - Two kinds of faith, profitable & unprofitable
 - Unprofitable faith believes but takes no action
 - Profitable faith believes and takes action because of that belief
 - Y2k..... ☺
- If I really have been saved by faith, that is believing in Jesus
 - And God has put His love in my heart.... Then
 - When I see a brother or sister in Christ in need, hungry, naked... then I will take action to meet that need.
- If I have unprofitable faith, that is a mere belief in God; or even a mere belief in Jesus... then I will see and take no action

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or I will tell the poor soul, why don't you pull yourself up by your own bootstraps.

- What is the difference between profitable faith and faith that is unprofitable?
 - Profitable faith takes profitable action
 - Unprofitable faith takes unprofitable action or takes no action.
- Can faith save us?
 - Yes, real faith can and does
 - But, simply saying you have faith, cannot!
- If we do good deeds, are we circumventing the theology of justification by faith?
 - If we are doing good deeds to earn salvation, then yes we are undoing our faith.
 - If the good work is the fruit of our faith, they are merely a demonstration of our faith.
- What is the evidence of living faith?
 - Love, and a life lived for Jesus not for self.
- Is there another place where works are mentioned as the outcome of faith?

Ephesians 2:8-10 ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

- God has prepared works for us to walk in.... to do!

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II. Can You Have Real Faith Without Works?

¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble! ²⁰ But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

- Can you have real faith without works?
 - No! Works are the fruit of faith. If you really have faith there will be works showing that faith.
- Is faith simply believing in the existence of God?
- Is faith simply believing the existence of Jesus?
 - No, the demons believe that but they don't have saving faith.
- What is the difference between living faith and dead faith?
 - Living faith makes us alive to what God wants us to do and to be!

III. Is Works the Means of Faith or the Result of Faith?

²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? ²² Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? ²³ And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "*Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*" And he was called the friend of God. ²⁴ You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. ²⁵ Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent *them* out another way?

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- Is works the means of faith or the result of faith?
 - Abraham believed God (Genesis 15-
 - Abraham obeyed God (Genesis 22-
 - By his works his faith was made complete or proven.
- Is works a demonstration of faith or faith a demonstration of works?
 - Rahab believed in the God of the Hebrews, (had faith)
 - Rahab acted on that faith by hiding the spies
 - Rahab's faith was vindicated when she tied the scarlet chord to her window and her family was spared
 - She and her family were saved because she believed God and acted accordingly
 - Noah built an ark, he and his family were saved
 - Gideon went to war with 300 men, 300 torches, 300 jars, and 300 shouts... because God told Him to do that
 - yEzekiel laid on his side for 430 days because God told him too.
 - Works is a demonstration of faith
- Is there a work that alone can save us? (Jesus work)
 - Yes, the work of Jesus.. who in obedience to the Father became sin for us.....

IV. Faith Without Works is Dead

²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

- Which comes first, the works or the faith?
 - Saving faith produces sanctified works

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- If works come first, but no faith follows the works are in vain.
- Why are works necessary?
 - Because God has created us to do His work!
- Faith without works is dead.
 - Have you merely made an intellectual decision that God is real, and His Son is Jesus Christ but there is no evidence of that belief?
 - Have you believed without committing your life to the Lord
 - Do you do for yourself but not the Lord
 - Do you live for yourself or for Jesus?
- Living faith clothes the naked, feeds the hungry, shares life with the dead...