

# **C a n F a i t h S a v e ?**

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Can faith save him? Is this not an alarming verse in scripture, found in the second Chapter of James in verse 14? Is James truly contradicting Paul's teaching that salvation is by faith alone? Are we not told in Ephesians 2:8:9 that "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."?

Actually, James is not teaching that salvation can be had by any means other than faith. He makes that very clear in James 2:10, where he points out that by one offence we are guilty of all, leaving us hopeless in our works, if that be our religion.

However, he is making the very pointed rebuke that faith without works is dead. He points out 4 times in Chapter 2 that faith without works; faith without labour is as dead as a corpse (nekros)<sup>1</sup>. It is indeed, a declaration against the hypocrisy of pretending to have faith without demonstrating it with works.

In verse 24 of James chapter 2 we see that a man works to show, or better yet to render unto God what is His. As the old hymn goes, "Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe".

This salvation may very well have been perverted into a talk of holiness, without the walk of holiness. Faith must and does produce a change of life. How can one be transformed

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<sup>1</sup>Strong, James. Strongs Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible. NT:3498

(Romans 12:2) and made a new creature (2 Cor 5:17) without showing it outwardly. This is what some many call “fruit-producing faith”.<sup>2</sup>

James, as does Paul in Chapter 4 of Romans, uses Abraham as an example that faith will, by the power of God (Romans 1:16), be shown through works if it is real. It was by Abraham’s obedience that his faith was visible. So, James and Paul do not contradict each other, but rather enlighten each other by showing that genuine faith can be seen.<sup>3</sup>

I believe that Romans Chapter 4 and verse 4 sums it up nicely, where we read that “Now unto him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. Our sin debt (Matt 18:32) was graciously forgiven by a merciful, faithful and holy God, and we in turn are indebted to serve Him.

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<sup>2</sup> Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary, Electronic Database. James 2:14

<sup>3</sup> Barnes' Notes, Electronic Database. James 2:14

## **Bibliography**

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