

"Faith or Works"

James 2:14-26.

Contradiction or Complimentary?

- “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.”
Romans 3:28
- “You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.” James 2:24
- Who is right? Does scripture contradict itself?
Are the passages both inspired by God?
- What does James actually say?

Works actively demonstrate our faith

- “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?”
(v.15)
- “Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” (v.18)
- The implication is that without works, it is not possible to demonstrate the reality of faith.

Faith Alone is not Enough

- The Devils have made amazing confessions:
 - ““Let *us* alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!” (Mark 1:24)
 - “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me.” (Mark 5:7)
 - “You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!” (2:19)
 - Two kinds of faith: (1) Intellectual (2) practical.

Illustration of Two Faith Qualities (2:21ff)

- Abraham demonstrated absolute submission.
 - “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” (Romans 4:3)
 - Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? (James 2:21) “Now I Know...” (Gen. 22:12)
- Rahab demonstrated risk and trust in God.
 - “Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent *them* out another way?” (2:25)

Substitutes For Faith

- TALK

- “When all is said and done, there’s a lot more said than done.”
- Matthew 21:28-31 – The parable of the two sons, “Which of the two did the will of his father?”

- PRAYER

- Prayer is an activity that all men should be involved in (Luke 18:1)
- Prayer was never meant to be a substitute for :
Arise, Go, Be faithful...
- FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS A DEAD FAITH (2:20)