

FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD FAITH!

Jn 3 :27 "God in heaven appoints each man's work." [LB]

Jn 9:4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

By working faithfully eight hours a day you may eventually get to be boss and work twelve hours a day.

[Robert Frost](#)

Inspiration exists, but it has to find us working.

[Pablo Picasso](#)

James 2:14 Dear brothers and sisters, what's the use of saying you have faith if you don't prove it by your actions? That kind of faith can't save anyone. 15 Suppose you see a brother or sister who needs food or clothing, 16 and you say, "Well, good-bye and God bless you; stay warm and eat well" -- but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? 17 So you see, it isn't enough just to have faith. Faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is no faith at all -- it is dead and useless. 18 Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." I say, "I can't see your faith if you don't have good deeds, but I will show you my faith through my good deeds." 19 Do you still think it's enough just to believe that there is one God? Well, even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror! 20 Fool! When will you ever learn that faith that does not result in good deeds is useless? 21 Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was declared right with God because of what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see, he was trusting God so much that he was willing to do whatever God told him to do. His faith was made complete by what he did -- by his actions

James is not contradicting any Doctrine of Salvation. We are saved by Faith. I.e. we cannot go to be with Lord based on our good works.

We're saved by faith and not by works. [Eph 2:8, 9] i.e. we do not earn salvation. We receive it by faith in the work that Jesus did on the cross.

Luke 23:43. Tells of the thief who died on the cross, next to Jesus. Jesus promised him, that he would be in paradise on the very day. That thief did not have the time, grace did not have the opportunity to work itself out in his life in order for him to do anything for anybody.

What James is saying is that faith and good works go hand-in-hand. They fit like a hand in a glove

James 2: 14 ... 17 Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense? ... 20 Use your heads! Do you suppose for a minute that you can cut faith and works in two and not end up with a corpse on your hands? **21** Wasn't our ancestor Abraham "made right with God by works" when he placed his son Isaac on the sacrificial altar? **22** Isn't it obvious that faith and works are yoked partners, that faith expresses itself in works? That the works are "works of faith"?

James uses Abraham as an example to explain further this very important link between faith and works.

Abraham is known for having great faith. However, Abraham proved this faith by being obedient to God. Heb 11:17" It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God's promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac,"

Isaac was the son of Promise, not Ishmael. After waiting for so long for an heir, the son of Promise, Abraham was asked to offer him up. Read further in Hebrews 11 we'll see that because of Abraham's faith he was quite willing to risk his son- his act of works- believing that God would raise Him from the dead, if he died.

1 Jn 2: 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him"

The word perfected means that your faith has reached a level of maturity. You've reached your goal. God has accomplished something very special in your life. Obviously that is an ongoing process. But is to start with an act of our wills.

James is saying that the level of our knowledge of Christ is not measured by how much we know. But how much we apply- through works- what we know.

Is it important to study the scriptures? Yes it is. It's important to know God's word. In fact we won't know what God is saying if we don't read and study the word. But it is equally important to do what He has told us.

Works are like the FINISHING SCHOOL for faith.

The word work, implies: expending energy; the application of mental and physical effort, for a specific purpose

So God gives us the work to do, secular and spiritual. In fact in scripture there is no distinction made between secular and spiritual work. Or secular and spiritual activities...

1 Cor 3:9 "We work together as partners who belong to God. You are God's field, God's building -- not ours. 10 Because of God's special favour to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. 11 For no one can lay any other foundation than the one

we already have -- Jesus Christ. 12 Now anyone who builds on that foundation may use gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. 13 But there is going to come a time of testing at the judgment day to see what kind of work each builder has done. Everyone's work will be put through the fire to see whether or not it keeps its value. 14 If the work survives the fire, that builder will receive a reward. 15 But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builders themselves will be saved, but like someone escaping through a wall of flames. 16 Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you? 17 God will bring ruin upon anyone who ruins this temple. For God's temple is holy, and you Christians are that temple.

There are two ways to destroy a building. Use inferior materials or tamper with its foundation.

The foundation has already been laid. That cannot change. The question is what are we building with? Are we using quality materials that will stand the test of fire? Or will the works of our hands be burnt and we escape through walls of fire???

Works...

Some of us are very contented with the way things are. We don't see the need for things to change. We see no need to tell people about the Saviour. I think that is the greatest work. You don't need to be a Pastor or a paid church worker to do that. In fact you have a greater chance of them listening to you if you're not one.

Then there are other works. Acts of kindness; showing people by our lives- not to show them up, but to point to a better way. Being different. Being honest. Being sincere. Keeping your word. Not speaking badly about people. Acting in a living way when you feel unfairly treated. And so on...

RIKKI MULLIN... will share her story of what she's building. Where her faith has taken her. Where her work has taken her.

Rikki.