Can I be saved by faith without works?

Are we saved by faith that works?
Or, are we saved by faith that
does not work, faith alone?

Can I be saved by faith without works?

Rom 4:4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due.

Rom 4:5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,

Jas 2:24 You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.

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Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

Eph 2:9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Introduction

- Across many denominations, it is taught, based on Romans 4, that we are saved by faith, belief, alone, not by works
- There is nothing we can do, works, by which we can be saved other than believe
- Works are contradictory to faith which is the only means we have to access the grace of God, His unmerited favor, to receive forgiveness of our sins

Introduction

- Therefore, baptism, which is a work, cannot be involved in one being saved
- And, if we must have a continued faith in order to remain saved, there can be no works involved in it that would be necessary for God's forgiveness
- But, James 2 clearly teaches that a saving faith must be shown by works or it will be incomplete, not approved by God

Introduction

- Does James contradict Paul who wrote Romans?
- There must be a distinction made between works that perfect, complete our faith and works that can never save us
- In order for us to be saved, faith must work as God commands but never in such a way where we can boast we have earned our salvation by our sinless obedience

The error stated

“We believe the Scriptures teach that the great Gospel blessing
which Christ[1] secures to such as believe in Him is justification;[2] that justification includes the pardon of sin,[3] and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done,

The error stated

but solely through faith in Christ; by means of which faith His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us by God;[4] that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.[5] “

--The Standard Baptist Manual, by Edward T. Hiscox p. 62

Abraham was saved by faith, not by works

Rom 4:1 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found?

Rom 4:2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

Rom 4:3 For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."

Abraham was saved by faith, not by works

Gen 15:6 Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Abraham was saved by faith, not by works

Rom 4:4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due.

Rom 4:5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,

Rom 4:6 just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

Abraham was saved by faith, not by works

Rom 4:7 "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED.

Rom 4:8 "BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT."

By what type of works was Abraham not saved?

- What Paul is writing about in Romans as well as other places, is, we cannot be justified, freed from guilt, by perfectly, sinlessly obeying the law of Moses or any other law
- To be saved by God's grace, we must have faith that trusts in Jesus, who died for our sins and was raised from the dead
- Our faith must trust to the point of obeying God's gracious conditions of salvation

Works of the Law of Moses, flawless obedience, cannot save Abraham or us

Rom 3:19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God;

Rom 3:20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

Works of the Law of Moses, flawless obedience, cannot save Abraham or us

Rom 3:21 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

Rom 3:22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Works of the Law of Moses, flawless obedience, cannot save Abraham or us

Rom 3:27 Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith.

Rom 3:28 For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.

Abraham's faith trusted in the just and merciful God to obey Him

Heb 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.

Heb 11:9 By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise;

Abraham's faith trusted in the just and merciful God to obey Him

Heb 11:10 for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

We must be saved by a trusting obedient faith in Jesus to save us

Rom 4:22 Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Rom 4:23 Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him,

Rom 4:24 but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,

Rom 4:25 He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

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Rom 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Rom 5:2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

We must be saved by a trusting obedient faith in Jesus to save us

Rom 6:3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

Rom 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

We must be saved by a trusting obedient faith in Jesus to save us

Rom 6:17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,

Rom 6:18 and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

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Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

We must be saved by a trusting obedient faith in Jesus to save us

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

Can I be saved by faith without works?

1. Abraham was saved by faith, not by works
2. Works of the Law of Moses, flawless obedience, cannot save Abraham or us
3. Abraham's faith trusted in the just and merciful God to obey Him
4. We must be saved by a trusting obedient faith in Jesus to save us

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Abraham was justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God

- There is no conflict between James 2 and Romans 4
- To be justified means to be declared not guilty
- Paul taught that no one can be justified by perfect law keeping but only by faith in Jesus
- Paul argues that works without faith will not justify while James argues that faith without works will not justify

Abraham was justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God

- Abraham was justified without works of law but with works of faith
- Even before Gen 15:6 and after, throughout his relationship with God, Abraham had always been justified by a trusting, working, obedient faith in the just and merciful God
- Both Paul in Romans 4 and James in James 2 quote Genesis 15:6 but they do not contradict one another

Abraham was justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God

- As we have noted earlier, we too must be justified by a continual trusting ,working, obedient faith in the just and merciful God

Faith without works is dead

Jas 2:14 What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?

Jas 2:15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food,

Jas 2:16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?

Faith without works is dead

Jas 2:17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

Jas 2:18 But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

Faith without works is dead

Jas 2:19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

Jas 2:20 But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?

Abraham was justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God

Jas 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?

Jas 2:22 You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected;

Abraham was justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God

Jas 2:23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS," and he was called the friend of God.

Gen 15:6 Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Jas 2:24 You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.

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Gen 22:1 Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

Gen 22:2 He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."

Abraham was justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God

Gen 22:3 So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

Gen 22:10 Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

Abraham was justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God

Gen 22:11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

Gen 22:12 He said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

Abraham was justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God

Gen 22:15 Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven,

Gen 22:16 and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son,

Abraham was justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God

Gen 22:17 indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies.

Gen 22:18 "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

Rahab was justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God

Jas 2:25 In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

Jas 2:26 For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

Rahab was justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God

Jos 2:10 "For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.

Rahab was justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God

Jos 2:11 "When we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

Jos 6:25 However, Rahab the harlot and her father's household and all she had, Joshua spared; and she has lived in the midst of Israel to this day, for she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

We must be justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God

Joh 6:28 Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?"

Joh 6:29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

We must be justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God

Act 26:20 but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

We must be justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God

Rom 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

Rom 10:10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

We must be justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God

Tit 1:16 They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

We must be justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God

Mar 16:16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

Col 2:11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;

We must be justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God

Col 2:12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Col 2:13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

We must be justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Mat 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

We must be justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

Act 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

We must be justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God

Act 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We must be justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God

Act 8:21 "You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

Act 8:22 "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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5. Faith without works is dead
6. Abraham was justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God
7. Rahab was justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God
8. We must be justified by grace through a trusting working obedient faith in God