

## James

### Lesson 4

"...faith without works is dead."

James 2:14-26

## Faith Is Essential To Pleasing God

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

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## Saving Faith Must Be Based On God's Word

Rom 10:17 So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

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## Introduction

- Sadly faith is often misunderstood even by those who claim to be Christians
- Denominational misconception of faith is that it has nothing to do with works because that would void our salvation
- Even Christians can be deceived by professing faith in the Lord but failing to produce works that perfect a saving faith

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## Introduction

- We can know much about the Word but still not have saving faith
- We can have our emotions touched to some extent by the Word and still not have saving faith
- Saving faith is perfected when our minds, emotions and stubborn will are submissive to the Word producing the works that God has commanded us to do showing our trust in His grace and mercy

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## "...faith without works is dead."

1. Faith without works is dead 2:14-20
2. We are justified when our faith is perfected by works 2:21-26
3. Apparent conflict between Paul and James

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## Faith Without Works Is Dead

- Faith is more than mental ascent, professing belief in the Word
- James emphasizes saving faith must work in the way God has commanded
- If our faith does not lead us to do what God has commanded, it cannot save us because it is dead

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## Can A Faith That Does Not Work Save Us?

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?

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## Example 1 of Faith That Does Not Work

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?

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

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## Example 2 of Faith That Does Not Work

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."

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?

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## Example 2 of Faith That Does Not Work

Mar 1:23 Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,

Mar 1:24 saying, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are--the Holy One of God!"

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## Example 1 of Saving Faith That Worked - Abraham

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;

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## Example 1 of Saving Faith That Worked - Abraham

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.

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

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## Example 1 of Saving Faith That Worked - Abraham

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."

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## Example 1 of Saving Faith That Worked - Abraham

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 22:4 On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance.

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## Example 1 of Saving Faith That Worked - Abraham

Gen 22:5 Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you."

Gen 22:6 Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together.

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## Example 1 of Saving Faith That Worked - Abraham

Gen 22:7 Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." And he said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

Gen 22:8 Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

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## Example 1 of Saving Faith That Worked - Abraham

Gen 22:9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

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

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## Example 1 of Saving Faith That Worked - Abraham

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."

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## Example 1 of Saving Faith That Worked - Abraham

Gen 22:13 Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind *him* a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son.

Gen 22:14 Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the LORD it will be provided."

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## Example 1 of Saving Faith That Worked - Abraham

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,

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## Example 1 of Saving Faith That Worked - Abraham

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."

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## Example 1 of Saving Faith That Worked - Abraham

Gen 22:19 So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham lived at Beersheba.

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## Example 2 of Saving Faith That Worked - Rahab

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.

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## Only Time Phrase Faith Alone or Faith Only Is Found In Scriptures

- We are told by denominations that we are saved by faith alone
- They deny baptism is a part of the saving faith that leads to forgiveness of sins
- But, James makes clear that faith alone is a dead faith that cannot justify us
- Saving faith must be perfected in doing works God commands us to do
- Is our faith working?

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## Only Time Phrase Faith Alone or Faith Only Is Found In Scriptures

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

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## Saving Faith Must Be Perfected In Works God Commands Us To Do

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;

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## "...faith without works is dead."

1. Faith without works is dead 2:14-20
2. We are justified when our faith is perfected by works 2:21-26
3. Apparent conflict between Paul and James

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## Apparent Conflict Between Paul And James

- Are we saved by faith or are we saved by works?
- James says we are justified by works while Paul says that we are not
- Is there a conflict between them?

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## Apparent Conflict Between Paul And James

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

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

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## Apparent Conflict Between Paul And James

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,

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## Apparent Conflict Between Paul And James

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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.

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## Apparent Conflict Between Paul And James

- Common false doctrine is that we are saved by faith alone when we turn our hearts to Jesus and pray the sinner's prayer asking for forgiveness
- Baptism and other actions of faith are excluded from God's plan of salvation because they are called works
- These works are said to be works of merit by which we are trying to earn salvation

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## Apparent Conflict Between Paul And James

- The Bible is clear – unless our faith, trust in the grace and mercy of God, leads us to obey Christ's conditions of salvation including baptism, we cannot be saved
- James speaks of these works that Christ commands to show our trust in Him that our faith would be perfected

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## Works That Cannot Save Us

- The Scriptures teach we cannot be saved by works of the Law of Moses or by perfectly keeping any other law
- We also cannot be saved by works of any kind that would merit or earn salvation

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## Cannot Be Saved By Works of The Law of Moses

Gal 2:16 nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

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## Cannot Be Saved By Works of The Law of Moses

Gal 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM."

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## Cannot Be Saved By Works of The Law of Moses

Gal 3:11 Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."  
Gal 3:12 However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, "HE WHO PRACTICES THEM SHALL LIVE BY THEM."

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## Cannot Be Saved By Works of Merit To Earn Salvation

Rom 9:30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith;  
Rom 9:31 but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at *that* law.

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## Cannot Be Saved By Works of Merit To Earn Salvation

Rom 9:32 Why? Because *they did* not pursue it by faith, but as though *it were* by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone,  
Rom 9:33 just as it is written, "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

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## Cannot Be Saved By Works of Merit To Earn Salvation

Tit 3:4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared,  
Tit 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

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## Cannot Be Saved By Works of Merit To Earn Salvation

Tit 3:6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

Tit 3:7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.

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## Cannot Be Saved By Works of Merit To Earn Salvation

Luk 17:10 "So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done *only* that which we ought to have done.'"

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### Abraham Was Saved By Grace Through Faith That Trusted In God To Obey His Word

- Abraham did not trust in doing works of the Law of Moses which came hundreds of years in the future
- He did not trust in works of his own creation trying to earn his salvation
- But, he did trust in a just, gracious, merciful God to the point of submitting his will to God's will doing what the Lord commanded him to do

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### We Are Saved By Grace Through Faith That Trusts In Christ To Obey His Word

- By His grace, God has carried out and revealed His plan of salvation through Jesus
- We can only be saved by the blood of Jesus, His perfect sacrifice for our sins
- But, we are only saved by His blood when we access God's grace through our faith that trusts in Christ by doing the works of faith revealed in the gospel of Christ

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We Are Saved By Grace Through Faith  
That Trusts In Christ To Obey His Word

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.

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We Are Saved By Grace Through Faith  
That Trusts In Christ To Obey His Word

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

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

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We Are Saved By Grace Through Faith  
That Trusts In Christ To Obey His Word

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?"

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.

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We Are Saved By Grace Through Faith  
That Trusts In Christ To Obey His Word

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;

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.

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We Are Saved By Grace Through Faith  
That Trusts In Christ To Obey His Word

1Jn 1:7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

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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We Are Saved By Grace Through Faith  
That Trusts In Christ To Obey His Word

Rom 6:15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!

Rom 6:16 Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

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## We Are Saved By Grace Through Faith That Trusts In Christ To Obey His Word

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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