

Faith is a key doctrine and a subject of importance in the Bible.

We are saved by faith Eph. 2:8

We walk by faith 2 Cor. 5:7

God is pleased by faith Heb. 11:6

What we do apart from faith is sin Rom. 14:23

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<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

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<sup>17</sup>So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

<sup>18</sup>But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

—James 2:14-18 ESV

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## Dissonance

Musically, it means lack of harmony.

Practically, it means tension or clash resulting from the combination of two disharmonious or unsuitable elements.

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Faith and Works

A Great Contradiction?

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<sup>21</sup>But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

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<sup>24</sup>and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus... <sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.  
—Romans 3:21-24, 27-28 ESV

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<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

—Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV

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Is this a biblical contradiction?  
How do we bring resolution?

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> They each spoke to a different context.

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“Justification is the act of God whereby He declares the believing sinner righteous on the basis of Christ’s finished work on the cross. It is not a process; it is an act. It is not something the sinner does; it is something God does for the sinner when he or she trusts Christ. It is a once-for-all event. It never changes.”

—Warren Wiersbe

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James says, “The faith that works matters and faith that doesn’t work doesn’t matter.”

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> They each spoke with different connotations.

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<sup>16</sup>You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

<sup>17</sup>So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup>A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.

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<sup>19</sup>Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup>Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

—Matthew 7:16-20 ESV

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> They each spoke with different concerns.

-.016.tiff

“[James and Paul] are not soldiers of different armies fighting against each other, but soldiers of the same army fighting back to back against enemies coming from opposite directions.”

—W.H. Griffith Thomas

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Faith and Works

An Inseparable Interaction!

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## Beware of Emotional Faith

(Feelings that don't translate into actions)

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## Beware of Intellectual Faith

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## Faith and Works

### A Life-Changing Validation

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<sup>21</sup>Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup>You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; <sup>23</sup>and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God.

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<sup>24</sup>You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

<sup>25</sup>And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? <sup>26</sup>For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

—James 2:21-26 ESV

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The result of genuine faith is obedience to God.

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“We are justified by faith alone,  
but faith that saves is not alone.”

—Reformers

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“Faith is belief with legs on it.”

—Adrian Rogers

-.026.tiff

“by grace... through faith...  
for good works” (Ephesians 2:8-10)

-.027.tiff

“There is a belief which is not  
nominal, but real, so far as it goes,  
and yet is miserably defective, wholly  
ineffectual as regards our highest,  
our eternal interests. It is a bare  
assent to doctrines... the class of  
persons whose faith is of this kind...  
may be perfectly sound indeed great  
sticklers for orthodoxy.”

-.028.tiff

“They may range themselves on the  
side of evangelical principles and  
parties. They may even lead the van  
in condensing for the doctrines and  
institutions of religion. But the  
works of faith and labors of love are  
awaiting... O, my brethren, rest not  
for a moment in believing after that  
fashion! It is defective, it is  
worthless.” —John Adams

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